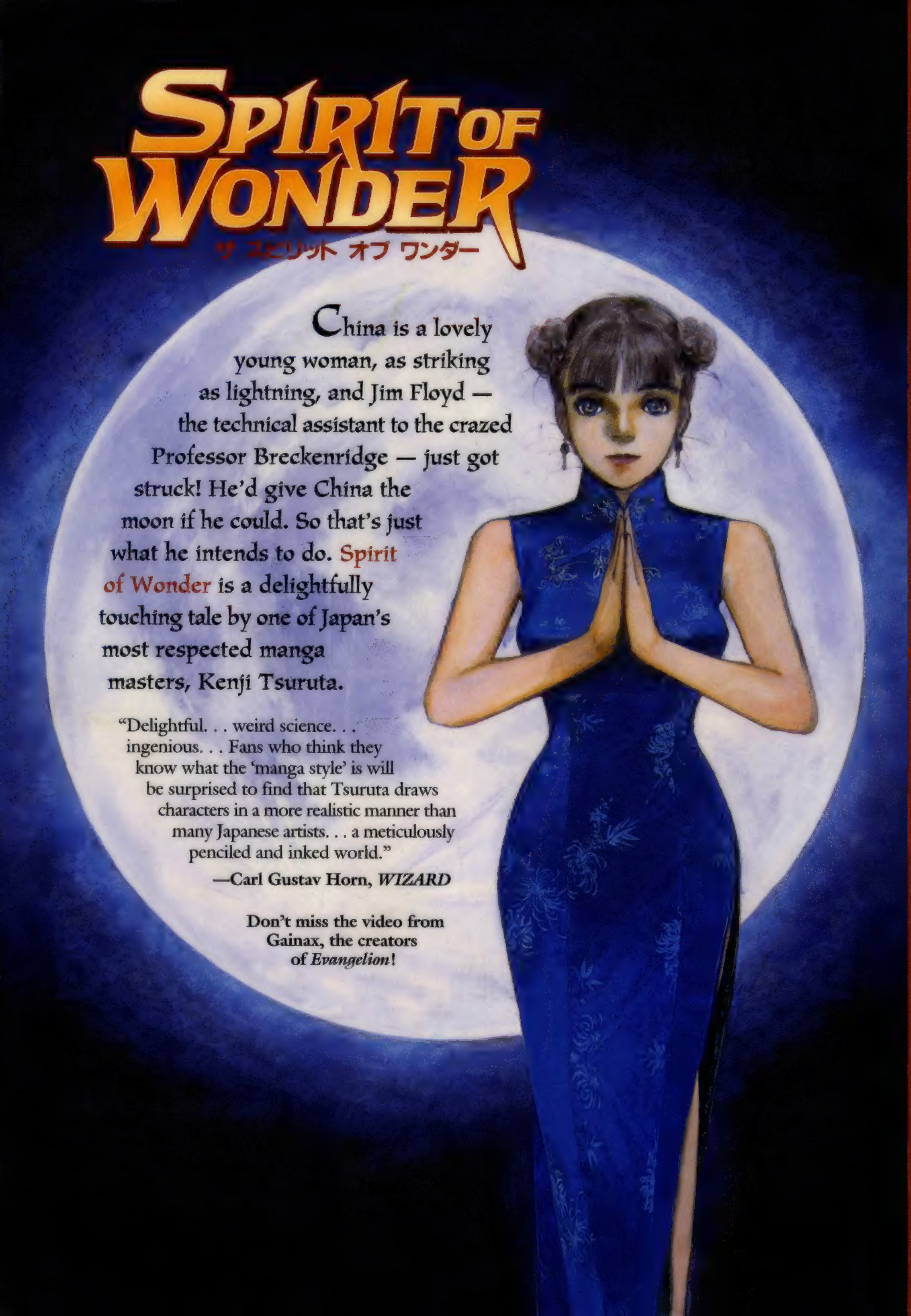


SPIRIT OF WONDER

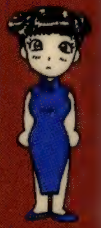
ザ スピリット オブ ワンダー

China is a lovely young woman, as striking as lightning, and Jim Floyd — the technical assistant to the crazed Professor Breckenridge — just got struck! He'd give China the moon if he could. So that's just what he intends to do. Spirit of Wonder is a delightfully touching tale by one of Japan's most respected manga masters, Kenji Tsuruta.

> "Delightful. . . weird science. . . ingenious. . . Fans who think they know what the 'manga style' is will be surprised to find that Tsuruta draws characters in a more realistic manner than many Japanese artists. . . a meticulously penciled and inked world."
>
> —Carl Gustav Horn, *WIZARD*

Don't miss the video from Gainax, the creators of *Evangelion*!

SPIRIT OF WONDER™



KENJI TSURUTA

SPIRIT OF WONDER™

ザ スピリット オブ ワンダー

KENJI
TSURUTA

DOC-TOR BRECKENLIDGE! YOU COME OUT NOW!
BAD DOCTOR PRETENDING NOT HOME, YES?!
LABORATORY
OKAY, DOC-TOR?! YOU PAY THIS MONTH RENT NOW, I BET!
MAYBE MISS CHINA GET MAD NOW, YES?
BRECKEN LABORA
OKAY, OKAY, YOU THINKING THAT WAY?
I ALSO HAVE THINKING, TOO!
ULP!
THE DOOR

SPIRIT OF WONDER

ザ スピリット オブ ワンダー

HYAAA!!
HAIEEEE...
NO! WAIT! I--
PAY RENT!
DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE!
I'M S-SORRY!!
I, I, I...

GIVE ME MONEY

SPIRIT OF WONDER™

ザ スピリット オブ ワンダー

MISS CHINA'S RING (PART 1)

or, Doctor Breckenridge and the Amazing Ether Reflector mirror!

Art and story by: KENJI TSURUTA

ON THE WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF THE SMALL HARBOR TOWN OF BRISTOL WAS A SMALL BAR AND RESTAURANT CALLED "TEN-KAI."
THE YOUNG WOMAN PROPRIETOR-- POPULAR AMONG THE SAILORS AND RIFFRAFF PATRONIZING THE SOMEWHAT RAMSHACKLE EATERY--
--WAS KNOWN SIMPLY AS "MISS CHINA." SHE WAS SAID TO HAVE INHERITED THE RESTAURANT AT THE TENDER AGE OF EIGHTEEN.
WE OPEN, COME IN!
AND ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF TEN-KAI LIVED A BOARDER, A CERTAIN PROFESSOR BRECKENRIDGE.
OH, JUST TWO?
DRINK OR DINNER?

Hmm?
DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE! SOME CUSTOMER FOR YOU!!
THUD THUD THUD
ALWAYS HE SO CRAZY LOUD...
CHINA!! BRING US TEA AND SOMETHING TO EAT!! CHOP CHOP!!
BRECKENRIDGE LAB
OOOH, THAT MAN!!
BRECKENRIDGE
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
GIVE ME MONEY
BREC
LABO

GO TO THE MOON!
KENRIDGE
RATORY
THE MOON, GENTLEMEN!
YES, THE DAY HAS COME THAT TRAVEL TO OUR SISTER ORB IS AT LAST A REALITY!
A REALITY, THAT IS, FOR THOSE WITH MY AMAZING INVENTION!
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
GO TO THE MOON!
YOU COULD ASK FOR NO BETTER ENDEAVOR IN WHICH TO INVEST YOUR FUNDS!
GO TO THE MOON!
DOCTOR, I BRING--
OH?!
BRECKENRIDGE
RATORY
OH, MY!
GIVE ME MONEY

天 回
WAIT! GENTLEMEN, HEAR ME OUT!
I WAS JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART!
A SPECIAL BENEFIT FOR EARLY INVESTORS! I'LL THROW IN MISS CHINA HERE!
EEEEK!
THIS... THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS...
DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE.
YOU PAY BILL FOR TEA NOW?
.....

N-NOW, NOW... CHINA, MY DEAR!
TALK! YES, TALK AND REASON SETTLES ALL...
ENDRIDGE
I WILL GIVE YOU A RARE AND SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS MY ASTOUNDING AND MYSTERIOUS NEWEST CREATION.
SO, LET'S SAY WE FORGET THE BILL... THIS TIME?
.....
REALLY YOU HAVE SUCH THING?
WHERE IS ASTOUNDING AND MYSTERIOUS THING?
EH ?!
LIVE and LET LIVE
SLEDGE HAMMER

SPACE REFLEX

HEH, HEH... NOT BAD, EH, DEAR?
X¹
X²
I CALL IT THE *BRECKENRIDGE SPACE REFLECTION LENS.*
IT REFLECTS A VOLUME OF SPACE ITSELF, CREATING AN OPPOSITE BUT IDENTICAL ANTI-SPACE! AN INCREDIBLE BREAKTHROUGH!
BR
NOT MYSTERIOUS-- JUST LIKE MIRROR!
LOOK LIKE FAKE, YES?
YOU NO PAY CHINA RENT BUT YOU BUILDING THIS EXPENSIVE FAKE THING? THIS MAKE YOU HAPPY MAN?
ULP!
A **FAKE?!** DON'T BE ABSURD, YOUNG LADY! THIS IS A WORK OF GENI--
GYAA!!
STOP! D-DON'T BREAK IT!
HYAA!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT *COST*?!

ECCENTRIC AS HE MIGHT BE, PROFESSOR BRECKENRIDGE STILL HAD HIS OWN FULL-TIME LAB ASSISTANT.
AN ASSISTANT WHO, UNFORTUNATELY, BORE THE ENTIRE FINANCES OF THE LABORATORY ON HIS YOUNG BACK. HIS NAME-- JIM FLOYD.
HEY, IT'S MISS CHINA!
HI, MISS CHINA!!
OH, HI!
YOU FEEL GOOD TODAY?
HEY, WHERE YA GOING, MISS CHINA?
I GOING TO MARKET.
YOU ALL WANT COME WITH ME, YES?

GILMOU
St.D.Gilmours Since 1891
EH?
THAT JIM...?
FLOWERS BY Lily
MAGICAL TASTE FROM SOUTHER ASIA
BIGAD
WHAT'S WRONG, MISS CHINA?

I'M HOME!
天 回
CLOSED
EEP!
IT ABOUT TIME, TOO!
UH. ER... HI...
YOU SO POOR BOY. WORKING SO LATE.
WELL, YEAH, BUT IT'S MY JOB...
SO MAYBE YOU PAY THIS MONTH RENT, YES? YES?!
WELL, I... ER...

HEY! WHAT YOU HIDING BEHIND YOU BACK?!
YOU SHOW ME, YOU BET!
G'NIGHT!
OH, YEAH...
...TOMORROW'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, RIGHT?
YOU NOT REMEMBER RENT BUT CHINA BIRTHDAY? YOU STRANGE BOY.
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
PERFECT! WITH THIS LITTLE GEM, WE'RE UNSTOPPABLE.
IT WAS PLENTY EXPENSIVE, DOC--WE BETTER NOT LET CHINA FIND OUT.
HERE I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO THE *MOON*, AND NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME!
THERE MUST BE *SOME* WAY TO CONVINCE THEM...

I COULD TRY ASKING LILY AT THE "FLOWER SHOP."
"WANT TO INVEST IN A SURE-FIRE WINNER?"
HMPH... WE'RE ***ALREADY*** IN DEBT UP TO OUR EARS THERE.
OH, HI, JIM.
DID YOU GET THAT LIST OF STUFF I ORDERED?
SURE DID.
BY Lily
IT'S KIND OF HEAVY, YOU KNOW?
BUT HERE IT ALL IS: ONE TEKTITE SLUG, URANIUM, METALLIC HYDROGEN...
IN ALL, 450 GUINEAS. I'LL ADD IT TO YOUR ACCOUNT.
FLOWERS BY Lily
WHOA! THAT'S KINDA PRICY, LILY! NO DISCOUNT FOR REGULAR CUSTOMERS?!
OH, SURE... AND WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ***PAID*** FOR ANYTHING, *Hmm?*

FLO
ALMOST FORGOT... THIS, TOO.
MACHINED AT FORTY DEGREES KELVIN. I THREW IN THE GIFT WRAP.
FLOWERS
BLAKE STREET
GOOD LUCK, JIM!
天 回
YA WANNA FIGHT, BUD?! I'LL BEAT YER UGLY FACE IN!
YOU STOP NOW!!
I NO WANT FIGHT IN MY PLACE!

HEY! YOU NO LISTEN WHAT I SAY?!
WUURK!
OH, YEAH!! GO CHINA, GO!
HYAAAAH!!
LET 'IM HAVE IT!
phew...
JIM?
NO MORE CLEAN, OKAY? YOU HAVE DRINK WITH CHINA.
ON MY HOUSE.

YOUR WORKING SO BUSY, JIM?
NAW, IT'S NOT *THAT* BUSY.
I SO BUSY ALL THE TIME... I BUSY TO *DEATH.*
JIM... YOU NOT LIKE WORKING IN TEN-KAI?
WORKING WITH CHINA?
WELL, THIS IS JUST TEMPORARY WORK FOR ME.
I'M REALLY AN INVENTOR, Y'KNOW.
YES... CHINA THINK SO, TOO.
....
HEE HEE... I NOT MINDING!
COME ON-- ONE MORE! TODAY WE GET SO DRUNK, YOU BET!
TOMORROW TEN-KAI HAVE VACATION!

hic
WHOA, CHINA... YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.
WHAT? WHAT THIS?
IT... IT'S A P-PRESENT. FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY--
YOU LEAVE CHINA ALONE, YOU HEARING ME?!
JIM STUPID!!
YOU HAVE MONEY TO BUY PRESENT, YOU PAY RENT, YES?!
YEOWCH!!
sniff
JIM... YOU TWO-TIMER...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

ZZZ
hic
UHHH...
??
EH?!

BRECKENRIDGE
YOU ALREADY WAKING UP, DOCTOR?
....?
JIM...?
Happy Birthday to China

EH...?! ?!?!
Happy Birthday to China
WHA-?! WHAT THAT ?!
LETTERS ON MOON ?!
?!
OH, CHINA, YOU GONE CRAZY! TOO MUCH DRINK LAST NIGHT!
OH, MY GOODNESS!
SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, CHINA M'DEAR?
D-DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE!

DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE! THIS BE YOU DOING IT ?!
HEH- HEH- HEH... SO YOU FINALLY NOTICED.
OH, MY GOODNESS! YOU REALLY MEAN YOU TRY TO GO ON MOON ?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "TRY."..?!
I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO THE MOON!!
Happy Birthday to Chi
OTHER- WISE, HOW COULD I HAVE DONE THAT?!
CHINA, DIDN'T JIM GIVE YOU A RING MADE OUT OF MOON ROCK JUST LAST NIGHT ?!
WHAT YOU TALK ABOUT?
HM?
AH-
AH-
AHHHHHH !?!

Happy Birthday to China

GO TO THE MOON!
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
A MYSTERIOUS "HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CHINA" EMBLAZONED ACROSS THE SHINING FULL MOON.
Happy Birthday to China
THE MORNING AFTER, NO ONE IN ALL OF BRISTOL DARED BREATHE A WORD ABOUT THAT STRANGE SIGHT...

HEE YAAH!
OWWW!!
OW OW OW!
YOU BAD, YOU!

天 CHINESE RESTAURANT 回
CLOSED
天 回
GOOD MORNING, CHINA!
AH, THE LOVELY MISS CHINA! WORKING HARD THIS MORNING?
?
SEEMS THE LITTLE LADY'S UPSET.
WHATEVER DID YOU DO LAST NIGHT, JIM, MY BOY, *Hmm*?

SO... READ IT TO ME, JIM. HEH-HEH... MUST BE QUITE A HEADLINE!
CHRONICLE
DAILY NEWS
THE EXPLOITS OF "AURORA"
MISS ELEANOR NAMBU'S SEVEN ADVENTURES
LAND OF CONFUSION EARTH
PERHAPS "MYSTERIOUS WRITING ON THE MOON"!
"THE WORK OF THAT GENIUS SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR BRECKENRIDGE..."
Happy Birthday to China
...OR A MESSAGE FROM MOON MEN?!
JUST A LITTLE JOKE THERE, SON!
THERE'S NOTHING, PROFESSOR!
WHAT?!
SEE FOR YOURSELF-- THE CHRONICLE, THE DAIBA, THE POST... NOT A PEEP ABOUT IT!
DAIBA
LONDON NEW YORK
AURORA
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!!
YOU SHOW ME ONE PERSON WHO WOULDN'T CALL THIS THE STORY OF THE CENTURY!!
GUESS I CAN SHOW YOU LOTS, HUH?

MAKE
£2 80d
GO TO THE MOON!
BRECKENRIDGE
LABORATORY

STOP, THIEF!!
SOMEONE STOP THAT MAN!
WHAT THIS?
YOU LEAVE TO CHINA, I STOP HIM!
HM?
MORNING
RAISE THE
CAFE
HEY! ISN'T THAT--
HAIEE YAAAH!!
CHINA!!
FIRST AID

☆ OUCH! THAT HURT!
I SAID, STAY STILL!!
FIRST ✚ AID
BOY, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU, CHINA-- LETTING SOME PICKPOCKET BEAT YOU UP, I MEAN.
?!?
CHINA...?

YOUR RING... IT... IT ALL BROKEN...
I SO SORRY.
CHINA SO, SO SORRY, JIM.
Hmm...
I MUST HAVE GOTTEN THE TEMP/COMP RATIO WRONG.
..... Hmm...
COMPRESSION...
SAY, CHINA...
...IF I GIVE YOU ANOTHER RING, WILL YOU ACCEPT IT THIS TIME?

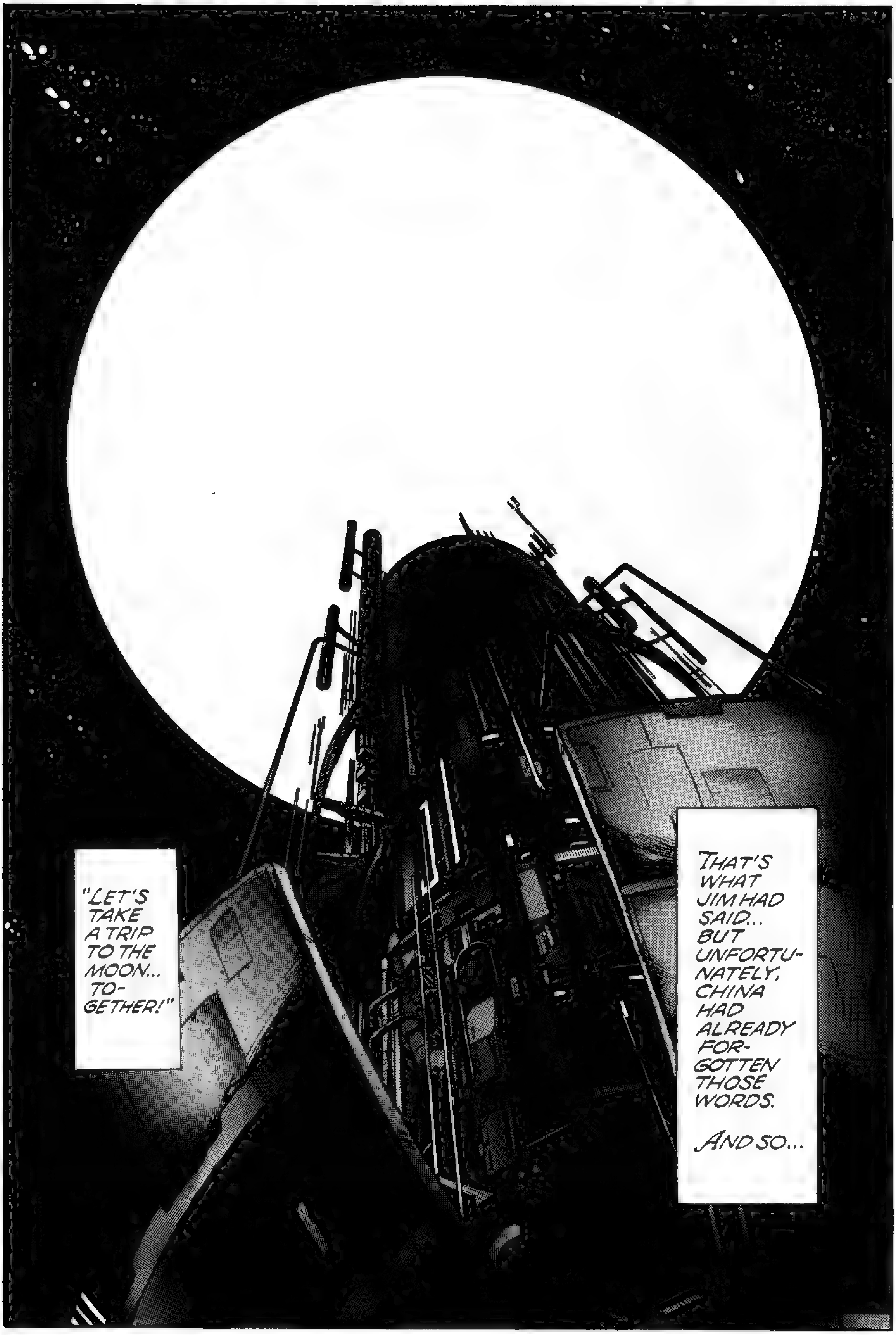
EH?! BUT... BUT...
....!
I... I NOT SURE... WH-WHAT KIND OF RING?
I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BEACH BELOW THE CLIFF. TEN TONIGHT, OKAY?
LET'S TAKE A TRIP TO THE MOON... TOGETHER!
PROFESSOR!
HEY, PROFESSOR!
TEN O'CLOCK TONIGHT...
COULD THIS THING BE "DATE"..?!
BRECKENRIDGE
LABORATORY
GIVE ME
WHAT?! ?!?!

LOOK HERE, BOY... ARE YOU SERIOUS?
OF COURSE I AM. IT'LL BE A TREMENDOUS DEMONSTRATION, ONE THAT WILL SPREAD THE FAME OF DR. BRECKENRIDGE AROUND THE WORLD.
FAME? MY FAME?!
DARK SIDE
HRMM... THE PROBLEM IS, HOW DO WE DO IT?
YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT JUST ANY OLD MASS.
REMEMBER THAT GRAVITY-COMPRESSION DEVICE I BUILT WAY BACK WHEN? WE CAN USE THAT.
SPAC
GRAVITY
PRE
BY JOVE! OF COURSE! THE "FLOYD ONE"!
STARLESS
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE DID WE STORE THAT OLD THING?
Hmm... GOOD QUESTION.
WHAM
KRASH
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, BOY! LOOK FOR IT!

WHDD
BAM
FIRST AID
Happy Birthday to China

Happy Birthday to Chi
Happy Birthday to China
HI, CHINA!
YOU LATE, YES?!
SORRY, SORRY! I WAS, *uh*, LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
??

THERE YOU ARE, JIM!
FLOYD1
I FINALLY FOUND THE DAD-BLASTED GISMO! IT WAS IN THE RESTAURANT STORE-ROOM!
YOU THINK IT'LL STILL WORK?
YOU! WHY YOU COMING HERE?!
DON'T YOU BE BOTHER TO ME AND JIM!
WELL, WHAT'S THIS? MISS CHINA?
AND ALL DRESSED UP, TOO!
DOCTOR BRECKEN--
PHHHFF!
koff koff
Happy Birthday to China.
STUPID JIM! STUPID, STUPID JIM!


"LET'S TAKE A TRIP TO THE MOON... TOGETHER!"
THAT'S WHAT JIM HAD SAID... BUT UNFORTUNATELY, CHINA HAD ALREADY FORGOTTEN THOSE WORDS.
AND SO...

OUCH! YOW! WHOA!
天回
CHINESE RESTAURA
CHINA HATE JIM AND DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE! HATE SO MUCH!
GOD DAMNING YOU!
THERE, THERE, THERE! CALM DOWN, MISS CHINA!
NOW, CHINA! IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK WHEN WE'RE OFFERING YOU A FREE TRIP... *TO THE MOON?!*
TO... MOON?
FLOYD!
INDEED--BY WAY OF THIS FINE "SPACE REFLEX" TELESCOPE!

Happy Birthday
to
China
FLOYD 1

MY DEAR CHINA!
HEH HEH HEH!
AHEM... SO YOU ARE NOT ACQUAINTED WITH THE BRECKENRIDGE SPACE-REFLEX TELESCOPE?
THEN ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN-- UNTIL NOW, ALL TELESCOPES HAVE MERELY MAGNIFIED AN OPTICAL IMAGE, BUT I...
...I HAVE USED MY UNLIMITED GENIUS TO PERFECT THE WORLD'S FIRST TELESCOPE UTILIZING THE PRINCIPLE OF BRECKENRIDGIAN SPACE REFLECTIVISM!
YES, AND THIS YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS THE MIRACULOUS DEVICE ITSELF... THE BRECKENRIDGE SPACE-REFLEX TELESCOPE!
IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT?
.....
PERHAPS I WAS TALKING TOO FAST...?
SPACE REFLEX
CHINA:A
中華蕎麦
TELES
THEN LET ME PERFORM A SMALL DEMONSTRATION.
FIRST, I FOCUS MY TELESCOPE ON YOU, THE "LITTLE MISS CHINA"...
中華蕎麦
CHINA:A'

BRECKENRIDGE
AIYAAH!
AND NOTE THAT WHEN I DO THIS *HERE*...
EEK!
EEK!
YOU STOP!
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MY DEAR MISS CHINA?
I UNDERSTANDING *TOO MUCH!* YOU STOP NOW!
BRECKEN
RIDGE
BRECKEN
SPAC

THE MOON
SPACE-REFLEX TELESCOPE
AND SO, WHEN I FOCUS THE RECEIVING END OF MY SPACE-REFLEX TELESCOPE ON THE MOON, WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN THEN, *Eh?*

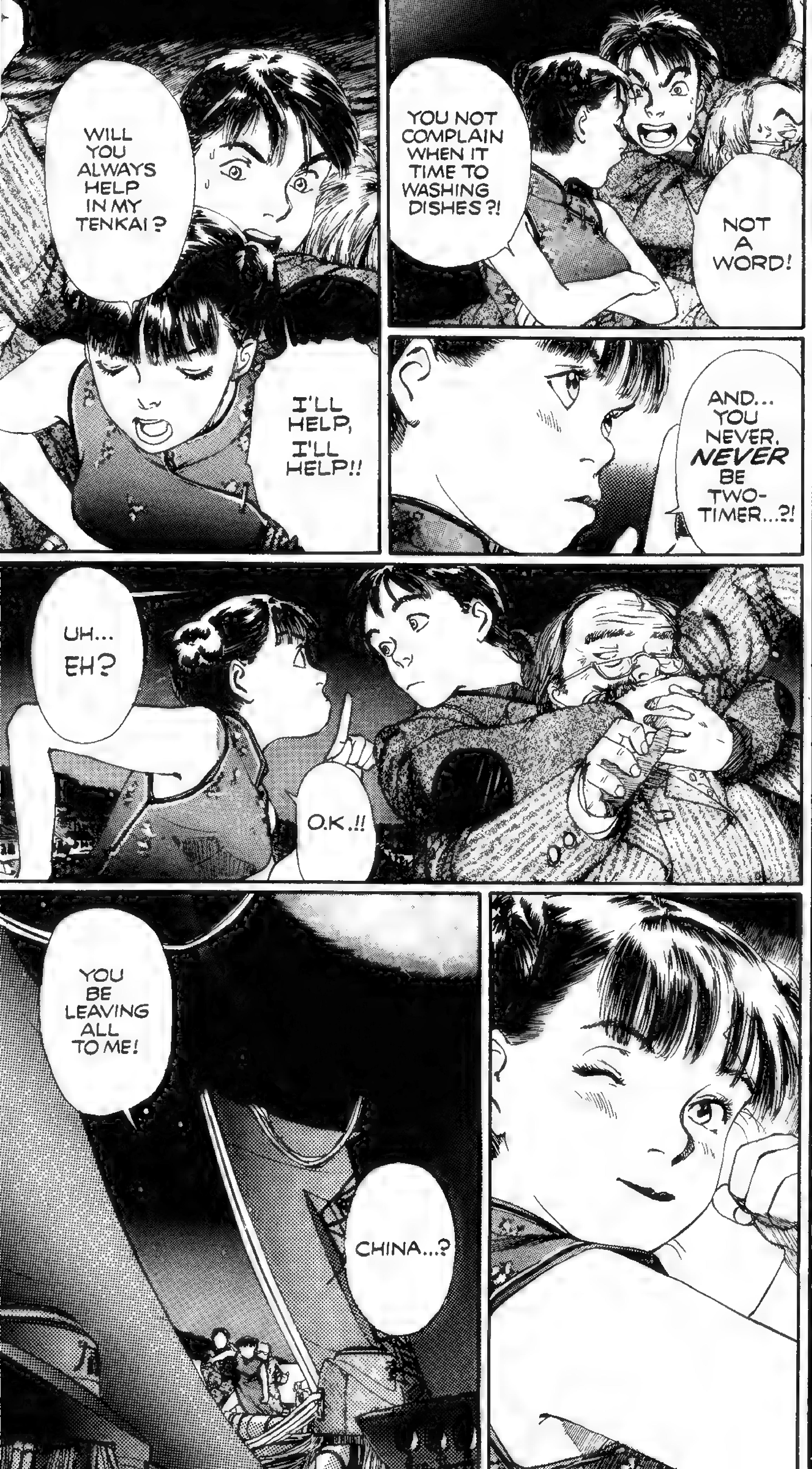
Happy Birthday to China
Happy to China
YOUR MOON-ROCK RING...
.....
I SO, SO SORRY IT BROKEN.
BUT I VERY HAPPY YOU GIVE ME.
Happy Birthday to China
BRECKENRIDGE LABORA
AW. I CAN ALWAYS MAKE YOU ANOTHER.
AFTER ALL, IT'S JUST A ROCK.
不忘
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?
HEE HEE... CHINA NOT TELLING!
IT SECRET, YOU BET!

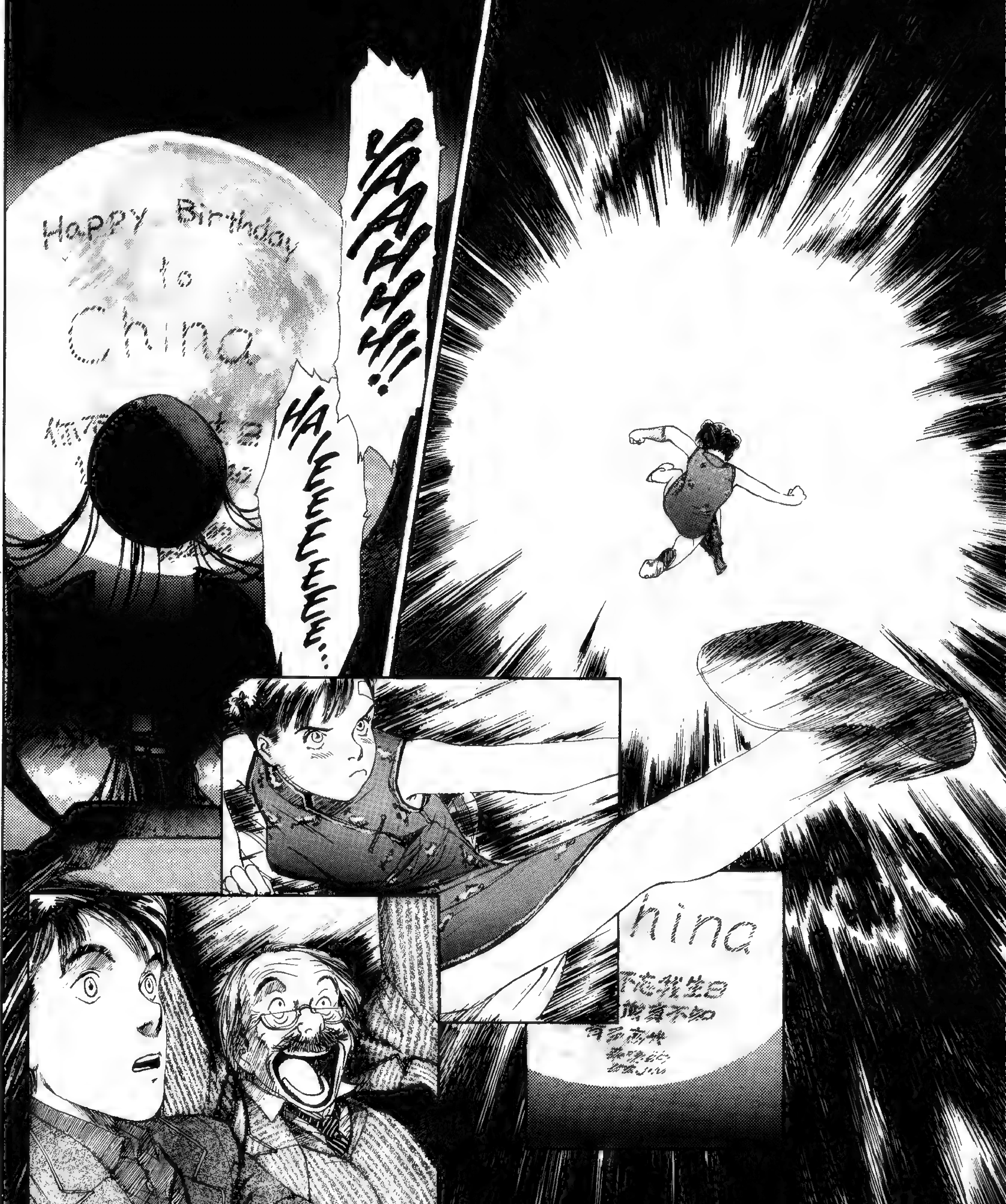
HERE, CHINA--TAKE THIS.
IT'S GOING TO BE THE LAST MOON ROCK.
LAST MOON ROCK?
??
I'M GOING TO SMASH THE MOON AND MAKE A RING AROUND THE EARTH.
THE BIGGEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL RING IN THE WORLD!
MY *FLOYD ONE* IS A GRAVITATIONAL COMPRESSOR.
WITH THIS MACHINE, I CAN COMPRESS THE MOON... AND CRUSH IT TO DUST!

......
....!
PROFESSOR! WE'RE COMING DOWN NOW!
DGE LAB
WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS RING FROM ME, CHINA?
yawnn
AND ABOUT TIME, TOO!
......
China
你不忘我生日
謝謝 真不知
有多高兴
亲爱的
柴[illegible] JIM

你不忘记我
谢谢 真不
有多高兴
亲爱的
FLOYD1
ALL RIGHT, JIM! THE TIME HAS COME!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!!
...AND MISS CHINA!
I SHALL NOW SHOW THE ENTIRE WORLD THE FRUIT OF MY MAGNIFICENT GENIUS!!
GRAVITY COMPRESSOR FLOYD ONE--
--SWITCH ON!!
AND NOW...!!
OYD1
DOM
GREAT SCOTT!
BOOM
BOM

COME ON, MY LOVELY FLOYD ONE!
NEVER GIVE UP! EVEN UNTO DEATH!!
.....
CON-FOUNDED, USELESS PIECE OF JUNK!
VERY WELL, THEN!! WE'LL HAVE TO USE MISS CHINA'S INSCRUTABLE ORIENTAL POWERS!
CHINA!
DO THIS FOR ME... FOR US! JUST ONE SMALL KICK!
....


WILL YOU ALWAYS HELP IN MY TENKAI?
I'LL HELP, I'LL HELP!!
YOU NOT COMPLAIN WHEN IT TIME TO WASHING DISHES?!
NOT A WORD!
AND... YOU NEVER, **NEVER** BE TWO-TIMER...?!
UH... EH?
O.K.!!
YOU BE LEAVING ALL TO ME!
CHINA...?


Happy Birthday to China
YAAHHHH!!
HAEEEEEEEE...
hina

天
YAAAHHHH!!
HAIEEEEEE...
THIS REALLY SO ASTOUNDING... SO MYSTERIOUS...

ARRGGHH!
DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE!
RIGHT NOW...
...YOU PAY RENT, YES?!
AND SO, THAT IS THE TRUE STORY...
...OF HOW "MISS CHINA'S RING" GOT ITS NAME.
MOON DE

THE FLIGHT OF FLOYD 2

天回
天回
CHINESE RESTAURANT
JIM, WHY YOU SO LATE TODAY...?
CHINA! YOUNG MISS CHINA!
CLOSED
CLOSED
天
WHAT YOU BE WANTING, DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE?
A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, MY DEAR?

HEH, HEH... DEAR CHINA!
HAVE YOU NO DESIRE TO BEHOLD ONE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE?!
FOR THE PALTRY SUM OF BUT ONE MONTH'S RENT, AN EXCLUSIVE VIEWING!
AHHH, I SEE DOUBT IN YOUR FAIR EYES!
TA-DAHHH ♪ ♪ !!
EEK!
THIS IS NO ORDINARY BROOM, MY DEAR!
YES-- THAT MY BROOM.
SO... THAT'S HOW IT'S TO BE... ALL THOSE YEARS OF GRUELING RESEARCH...
...AND YET SHE HAS NO INTEREST IN A BROOM THAT... FLIES?
WELL, IF YOU INSIST... HOP ON BOARD, CHINA!
YOU MAY... ahem... REIMBURSE ME UPON YOUR RETURN...
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
CHINA SIT THIS WAY, DOCTOR?

EEK?!
NYA HA HA!
HM?
AWAAA!
EH?! OH, DEAR!!
AIEE!
??!

OW OW OWW!!
SKRAKK
TUT, TUT, TUT... ANOTHER FAILURE, IT SEEMS...
WHAT YOU MEAN, "SEEM," YOU BAD DOCTOR! WHAT YOU DO TO TEN-KAI ROOF?!
YES, YES... AN INTERESTING PROBLEM... THE GRAVITATIONAL DISRUPTION FIELD...
DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE!!!
WILL YOU PEOPLE PLEASE SHUT THE HELL UP DOWN THERE?!
EH?!

HOW DO YOU IDIOTS EXPECT ME TO CONCENTRATE UP HERE?!
I'M DOING A VERY DIFFICULT CALCULATION! DO YOU MIND?!
OH...
SORRY, JIM.
HE HOME ALREADY?!
HMPH... WHAT A WAY TO TREAT A GENIUS!
天 回
AND SO IT WAS THAT VERY EVENING THAT OUR STORY BEGAN.
THAT NIGHT AS EVERY NIGHT, CHINA CAST HER EYES TO THE DARKENED SKY.
AND WHY DID SHE DO THAT...?

BECAUSE SHE HAD HEARD THE LEGEND...
...THAT IN THAT FLEETING MOMENT WHEN A SHOOTING STAR STREAKS ACROSS THE SKY, IT HEARS THOSE WISHES SPRINGING PURE AND UNBIDDEN FROM THE DEPTH OF THE HEART...
...AND GRANTS THE DREAMS OF THOSE BELOW.
PLEASE, YOU SHOOTING STAR, PLEASE MAKE JIM STOP STUPID INVENTING AND HELP ME IN MY TEN-KAI.
PLEASE, PLEASE, SHOOTING STAR...MAKE TEN-KAI BE SO FULL OF PEOPLE, SO GOOD BUSINESS ALL THE TIME.
AND DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE, MAKE HIM NO BREAK MY TEN-KAI AND BE PAYING ALL RENT, TOO!
AND NOT FORGET... ......
AND THIS... ......
AND ALSO..

...AND NUMBER ONE, MAKE ALL MY FRIEND HEALTHY AND HAPPY!
AMEN!
GEE, CHINA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP SO LATE?
....
CHINA OUT HERE *EVERY* NIGHT!
I HAVE SO, SO MANY THINGS I WANTING.
SO CHINA ASKING SHOOTING STAR EVERY NIGHT.

天
HUH... NO KIDDING.
BUT AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOUR WISH BEFORE THE SHOOTING STAR GOES OUT?
W-W-WHAT?!
AIYAA! REALLY THAT THE WAY? REALLY?!
OH!
WELL, UH... THAT'S THE WAY I HEARD IT...
OH! THIS SO TERRIBLE! ALL MY ASKING, IT NO GOOD NEVER!
....
CHINA DREAM ALL NO GOOD...
STAR NEVER LISTEN CHINA...

HA HA! THAT'S *SO* SILLY!
IT'S JUST A RIDICULOUS SUPERSTITION AND YOU *KNOW* IT, JIM.
LILY
BUT YOU STILL WANT YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE CHINA TO HAVE HER DREAMS.
YOU'RE SO *CUTE*, JIM... I LIKE THAT.
SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
BUYING FLOWERS, MAYBE?
VERY FUNNY. JUST LOOK THIS OVER FOR ME, OKAY?
MY GOODNESS... THESE SPECS ARE *REALLY* OLD.
Hmm...A "GRAVITATIONAL DISRUPTOR"...?
DO YOU SEE HOW IT WORKS?
YESSSS, I THINK I'VE GOT THE GENERAL IDEA...
...BUT THIS "QUENCHED-FIELD" INDUCTOR HERE... DO THEY EVEN MAKE THEM ANYMORE...?

FLOWERS BY LILY
ISN'T THAT WHERE YOU BLACK-MARKET PARTS DEALERS REALLY SHOW YOUR STUFF?
OH, VERY WELL-- WHY NOT? I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.
"NEW OLD STOCK" WILL COST YOU, THOUGH.
STILL, THIS REALLY IS BRILLIANT. WHO DREW IT UP?
I KNOW IT WASN'T BRECKENRIDGE.
DR. JAN FLOYD
DESIGN
FLOWERS BY
"DOCTOR JAN FLOYD"...?
DON'T TELL ME--?!
YES. DR. JAN FLOYD...
...WAS MY DAD.
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
GIVE ME MONEY
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
Flowers by LILY
THAT DOCTOR FLOYD...?
OH, MY...

SPLOOSH
DGE LAB.
DON'T TOUCH
KBLOOSH
天 回
天回
CHINESE
RESTAURANT

LABORATORY
BRECKENRIDGE
LABO
BRECK ENRIDGE
LABO RATORY
GIVE ME MONEY
THAT SILLY JIM. HE NOT EVEN EAT.
MAYBE HE STILL ANGRY?
BUT I MAKE THIS SO DELICIOUS...
BRECK ENRIDGE
LABO RATORY
GIVE ME MONEY
JIM...?
AIYAA?

JIM?
HELLO? JIM?
YOU NO GO WORK? YOU GET UP NOW, I THINK SO!
UMPH...
mff... GODDA DAY OFF... DON'T GET TO GO TO THE FLOWER SHOP T'DAY... MMPH.
YOU!
YOU WAKE UP NOW!!
HEY, CHINA!
GIMME ANOTHER PLATE OF THEM THERE POT STICKERS!
OKAY!

HRMM...
....
HM!
DAMN THING IS *PERFECT.* A PERFECT GRAVITATIONAL DISRUPTOR. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I KNEW JIM WAS WORKING AWAY ON SOMETHING, BUT *THIS!*
HEY! WHA--?!
DR. JAN FLOYD
HAH! SO *THAT'S* IT! IT'S JIM'S *FATHER'S* WORK! WHAT A RELIEF!
OF *COURSE* JIM COULDN'T DO IT...NOT SOLVE A PROBLEM THAT HAS DEFIED THE BRILLIANT DOCTOR BRECKENRIDGE HIMSELF... *NYA-HA-HA!*
CHINA DEAR, MORE TEA!
....
JIM'S FATHER?
Hmm?!
JIM'S FATHER INVENTOR, TOO...?

NO! BAD DOC-TOR!
EEK !!
I GET YOU--
?!? EH?!
J-JIM ?!
er, HI... OWW!

"MISS CHINA, THE HUMAN HAMMER"...! BENT THESE STEEL RODS JUST RIGHT!
HA HA HA... SAVED ME A LOT OF TIME!
THANKS, CHINA!
.....
HEY, DOC-- HAS THE KID FINALLY LOST IT?
FIGURES... MUST BE THE *FLOYD FAMILY CURSE,* EH?
HIS POOR OL' MOM MUST BE SPINNIN' IN HER GRAVE...
.....
RMMBB
天
BRMMBLL
WRMMBB
RMMBB
WAAH! WHAT HAPPEN NOW?!

....
....
.....
....?
KROOMBB
AIYAA!
JIM! JIM, UP THERE!!
JIM!
JIMMM!!
AWW, HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MISS CHINA!
HE'S RIGHT! THERE AIN'T NO CURE FOR IDIOTS!
HAIEEE!

I DID IT! EUREKA!!
NYA HA HA HAAA!
JIM! YOU ALL OKAY?!
YOU--
HO HEE HEE!
HA HA HA HA HA!
HE BLEW OFF THE WHOLE ROOF?! OH, CHINA... THAT'S SO FUNNY!

LILY
IT NOT, NOT FUNNY! YOU NOT LAUGHING, LILY!
SORRY, CHINA, SORRY!
I'M SORRY, BUT I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
REALLY, WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE, CHINA? HE'S DOING WHAT HE LIKES...
...AND BESIDES, THE FLOYD FAMILY IS FAMOUS AROUND HERE FOR THEIR... UM...SLIGHT ECCENTRICITIES.
....!
PEOPLE SAY JIM'S FATHER WAS BLOWN UP DURING AN EXPERIMENT.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
OF COURSE, IF YOU INSIST, I COULD PROBABLY PERSUADE HIM TO STOP...
...HMM?
AFTER ALL, JIM AND I ARE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS...
HMPH!

THAT NIGHT, CHINA STAYED UP ALL NIGHT SEARCHING FOR SHOOTING STARS.
IT SEEMS HER REQUESTS WERE A LITTLE MORE NUMEROUS... AND A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS... THAN USUAL.
mmph... mnrg... zzzz...

JIM...?
HUH? CHINA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP SO LATE?
UMM...
I... CANNOT SLEEP...
OH, GOSH, I'M SORRY! WAS I THAT LOUD?
FLOYD 2
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
Er... BY THE WAY, CHINA-- IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL YOU WANT TO WISH FOR?
FLOYD 2

Hmm? WHY?
I'VE MADE A *VERY* SPECIAL SHOOTING STAR... ONE FOR SOMEONE AS GREEDY AS A CERTAIN MISS CHINA I KNOW!
....
I CHRISTENED IT THE *FLOYD 2*-- THE *ETERNAL SHOOTING STAR!*
THIS ONE'S GONNA WORK, I'M *SURE* OF IT.
YOU...
...YOU MAKING THAT *THING* FOR CHINA?
"THAT THING"..? GEEZ, SHOW A LITTLE RESPECT, HUH?
STUPID...
JIM A BIG STUPID!
STUPID STUPID STUPID!!

I BE WORRYING.
WORRYING SO, SO MUCH!
YOW!
STOP! WHOA!
HEY, IT'S KINDA LATE NOW...WE DON'T HAVE TO LAUNCH OUR SHOOTING STAR UNTIL TOMORROW.
O.K.?
SO TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP, OKAY?
NO NO NO NOOOO!!!
CHINA WANT DO HER WISHING NOW!
RIGHT NOW, YOU BET!!
YEEP! OKAY, OKAY!
FLOYD
BRECKENRIDGE LABORATORY
FLOYD

ROTATION
THE EARTH
NORMAL
MISS CHINA
THE EARTH SPINS ON ITS AXIS, GENERATING A CENTRIFUGAL FORCE THAT PROPELS US OUTWARD.
GRAVITY
CENTRIFUGAL FORCE
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THE EARTH HAS ITS OWN INTERNAL FORCE, A PRODUCT OF ITS MASS: GRAVITY. IF IT WASN'T FOR GRAVITY, WE WOULD ALL BE FLUNG OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH BY CENTRIFUGAL FORCE.
MY GOD!
HO
GRAVITATION GATE
AND SO, THE KEY IS--
--THE MAGNIFICENT *FLOYD 2*, OUTFITTED WITH A TIMER-RIGGED GRAVITATIONAL DISRUPTOR.
BRECKENRID
MY "ETERNAL SHOOTING STAR" IS TOUGH ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE INTENSE HEAT GENERATED BY ATMOSPHERIC FRICTION, AND SO IT CAN BE RETRIEVED AND USED OVER AND OVER AGAIN. WE CAN--
OH, ALL RIGHT... I'LL LAUNCH IT RIGHT AWAY!
REMEMBER, CHINA, IT'LL BE GONE IN A FLASH, SO WATCH REAL CLOSE.
AIYAA!

MY "ETERNAL SHOOTING STAR" IS NOT ACTUALLY ORBITING THE EARTH. AFTER THE GRAVITATIONAL DISRUPTOR ALLOWS THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE TO FLING IT AWAY FROM EARTH...
...IT SLOWS DOWN GRADUALLY, THEN FALLS BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. I SET UP THE VECTORS SO IT WILL ENTER AT A LOW ANGLE AND MAKE A NICE, LONG FIRE TRAIL FOR YOU.
BUT... IT'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE.
SO DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT, OKAY? JUST RELAX AND WAIT.
YOU CAN THINK ABOUT YOUR WISH WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE CHANCE, HMM?
OKAY...
-yawn-
G'NIGHT.
.....
.....
.....

CHRONICLE
DAILY NEWS
THE METEORIC THING
THIS IS AMAZING! INCREDIBLE NEWS!!
AN ENORMOUS METEORITE, MAKING A DIRECT HIT ON THE LAND OF THE FREE?!
MY GOD!!
UNPARALLELED IN HISTORY
PANIC IN CITY

Hmm... Ho!
YES... YES, THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO.
I'LL USE JIM'S GRAVITY DISRUPTOR TO MAKE THE SKY RAIN ARTIFICIAL METEORS!
HRMM... "THE GREAT BRECKENRIDGE CRATER"...! NOT A BAD IDEA...
WHAT WISH DID CHINA MAKE THAT NIGHT UPON HER PERSONAL SHOOTING STAR?
AND WAS THAT VERY SPECIAL REQUEST EVER GRANTED?
WELL, THE NEXT TIME YOU EAT AT TEN-KAI, YOU COULD ALWAYS ASK HER YOURSELF.
天 回

SPIRIT OF WONDER

ザ スピリット オブ ワンダー

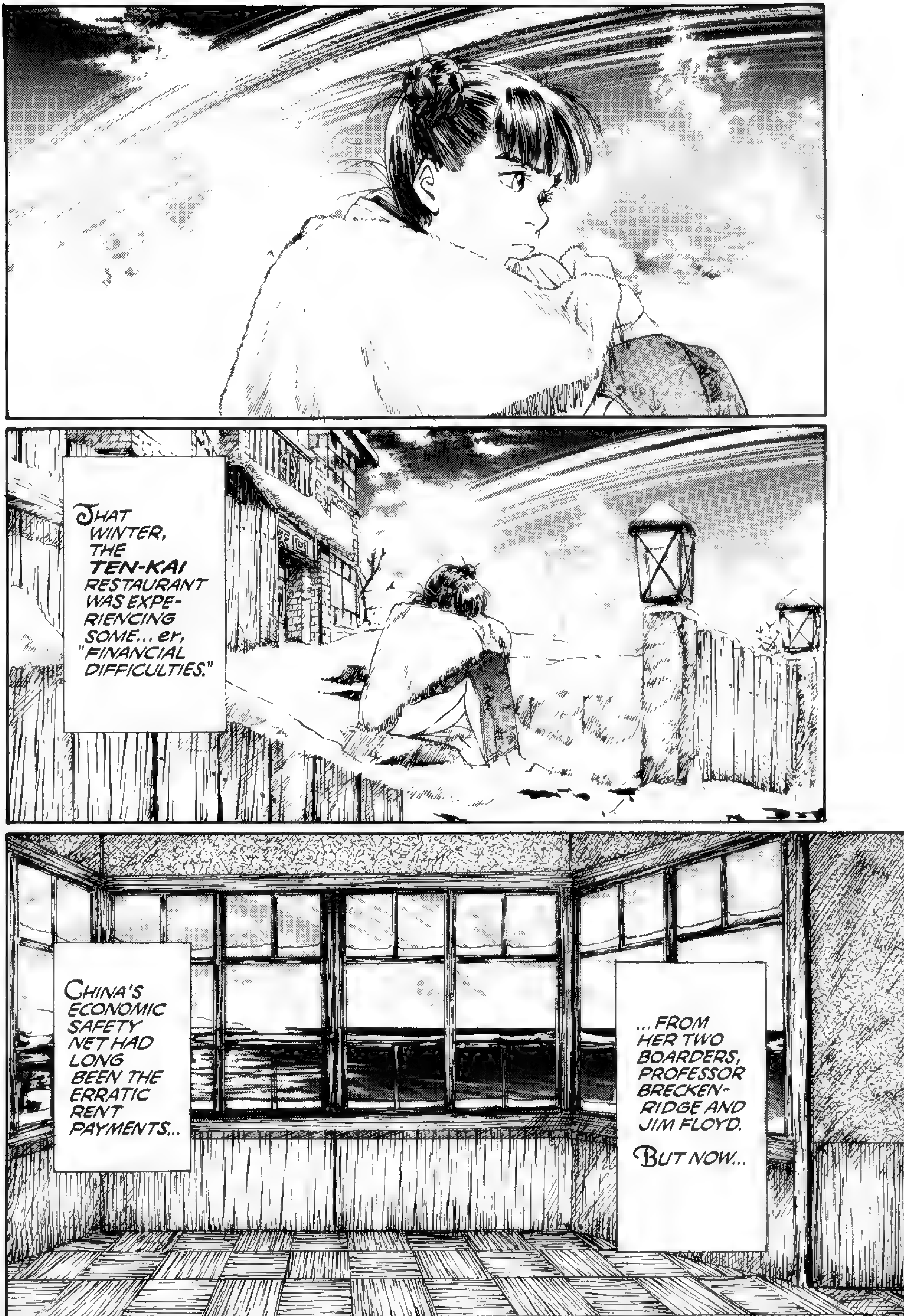
CHINA STRIKES BACK

or, Doctor Breckenridge and the Astounding Instantaneous Matter Transmitter!

Art and story by: KENJI TSURUTA

RESTAURANT
hahh-KCHOO!
AIYAA...
CHINA'S HEAD POUNDING SO MUCH!
BRECKENR DGE LABORATO
GIVE ME MONEY
KENRIDGE RATORY
JIM! BREAKFAST TIME!
YOU PRETENDING NOT HOME AGAIN?!
WHAM
Keep Out
Hmm... ?

KRASSH
AH...
AHH?!
AWAAA?!
AH...
....
....
....
....!
GIVE ME MONEY


THAT WINTER, THE **TEN-KAI** RESTAURANT WAS EXPERIENCING SOME... er, "FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES."
CHINA'S ECONOMIC SAFETY NET HAD LONG BEEN THE ERRATIC RENT PAYMENTS...
...FROM HER TWO BOARDERS, PROFESSOR BRECKENRIDGE AND JIM FLOYD.
BUT NOW...

AH, WELL... AS WITH ANYTHING INVOLVING THE FEISTY MISS CHINA, THE ORIGINS OF THE INCIDENT WERE ACTUALLY QUITE MINOR EVENTS.
LET US BRIEFLY BOARD OUR IMAGINARY TIME MACHINE AND GO BACK TO SEE THE CHAIN OF EVENTS...
WOW--I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
OOH, MISS CHINA'S REAL ANGRY!
I KNOW WHAT IT IS! IT'S BOY TROUBLE!
SOME-TIMES YOU GUYS ARE SO DUMB!

HRMM! EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT!
THE "FLOWER SHOP" COMES THROUGH AGAIN!
FLOWERS by Lily
THAT JIM...
...WHAT ON EARTH DOES HE PLAN TO DO WITH A CLUNKY OLD INVENTION LIKE *THIS*, NOWADAYS?
3½
FLOWERS by Lily
BY Lily
YOU DID A FINE JOB GETTING THESE PARTS, M'DEAR-- MAGNIFICENT AS ALWAYS!
BUTTER ME UP ALL YOU WANT, PROFESSOR... IT'S STILL *CASH ON DELIVERY.*
HRMM...

GAD!
ER... I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, M'DEAR!
Lily
2½
3½
WELL, WELL!
GOODNESS ME!
MISS CHINA LOOKS RATHER OUT OF SORTS TODAY.
ACTUALLY, THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING JIM HAS BEEN LOCKED UP IN THE LAB FOR SEVERAL DAYS...
AH-HAH! I GET IT!
Hmm...
SO SHE'S LIKE THAT ALL DAY LONG, EH?
OOH, SCARY!

DOC-TOR BRECKENLIDGE!!
天回
CHINESE RESTAURANT
I NOT HEARING YOU EXCUSE!
THIS MONTH YOU PAY MY RENT, YOU BET!
CAN'T WE DISCUSS THIS?
I, TOO FIND THE SITUATION DEPLORABLE, AND YET...
...IT'S LIKE THE OLD SAYING--
--"A MAN WHO HAS NOTHING CANNOT GIVE ANYTHING AWAY."

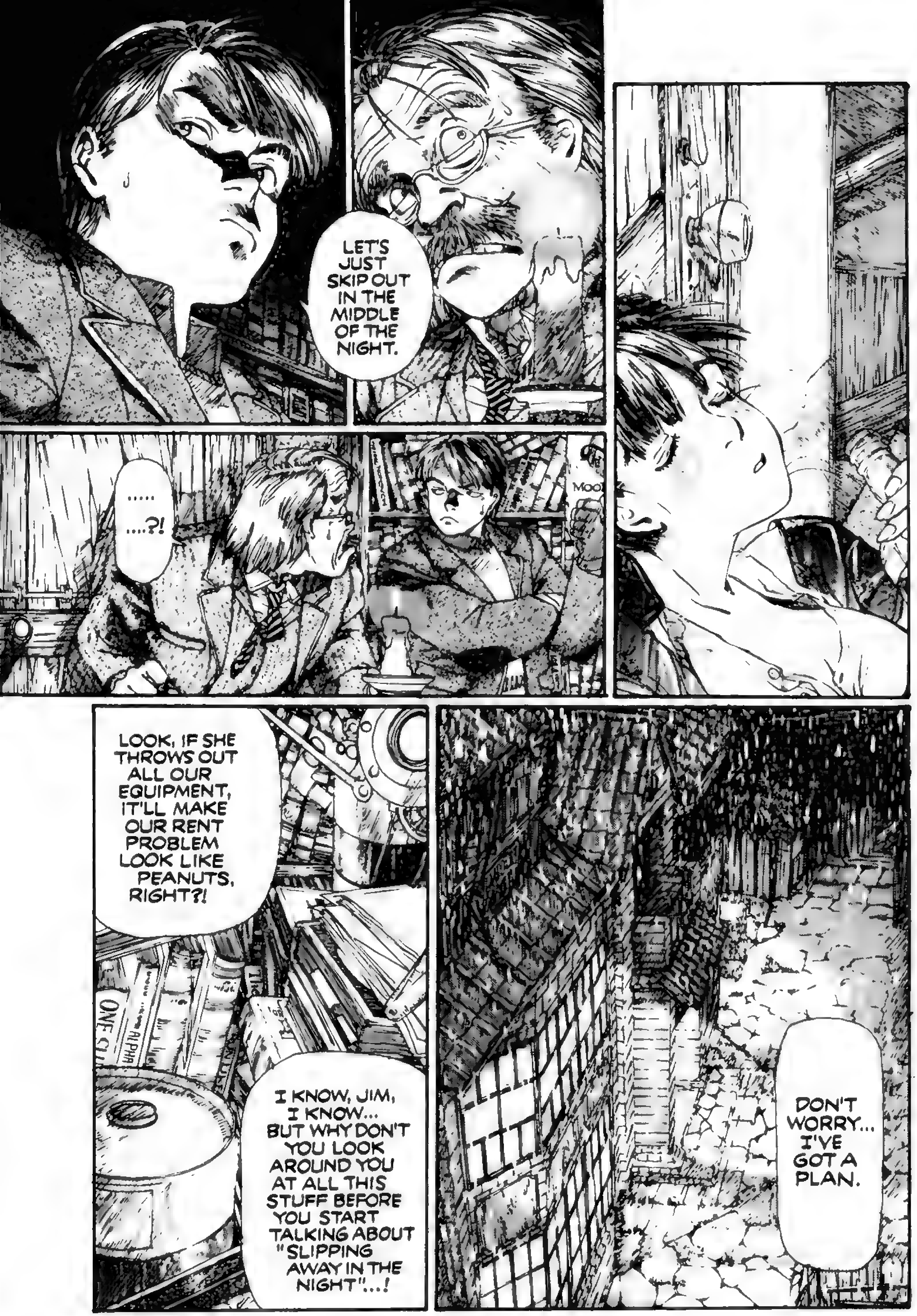
AAUGH!
THEN YOU SELL BIG PILE JUNK TO IRON JUNK MAN, YES?!
KANGG
BKOOM
AIEE!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, CHINA?! YOU WRECKED MY WORK!!
THAT NOT RIGHT WAY TALKING FOR LAZY BUM WHO NO PAY HIS RENT.
JIM... .....
"LAZY BUM"...?! WHY YOU--
YOU NOT LIKE IT, THEN YOU JUST GO LEAVE TEN-KAI!
YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, LAZY BUM!!

SLAM!
RESTAURANT
WHUD
gulp
glp
glurp
AHHH...
hic
YEOW! THAT'S TOO DAMN SPICY TO EAT!
YEAH... THIS PLACE HAS REALLY GONE DOWNHILL.

YOU SAYING MY COOKING BAD TASTE, EH? EH?!
NO, NO! JUST A LITTLE... er... HOT?
hic
HEY, MISS CHINA, CALM DOW--
YOU SHUT UP!! BAD MANS!!
GYURK!
WHOA, CHINA! ARE YOU CRAZY?! FIGHTING WITH YOUR OWN CUSTOMERS?!
C'MON, CUT IT OUT!
DAMMIT, MISS CHINA!!
KRAAWWH
UH... oops...

EEEK! PERVERT! DIRTIES!
CHINA HATING ALL OF YOU!
AIEEEE!
YOU ALL GET OUT OF MY TEN-KAI!!
CHINESE RESTAURANT
The Secret Life of the Electron
Lucifer
BRE
LAB
OH, BOY.
NOW WHAT'S SHE UP TO?
NOW SEE HERE, JIM-- THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU'VE NEGLECTED BASIC "MISS CHINA MAINTENANCE."
PLEASE, IN THE FUTURE HANDLE THINGS IN SUCH A WAY THAT I DON'T WIND UP CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE!
hic
WHEW...

AIEEE!
WHAM
JIM! SHE'S BACK!
BRE
N
FWHD
LABORATORY
GIVE
M
phewww...
GI
N
....
....
CURSES! SHE'S CAMPED OUT THERE, THE LITTLE DRUNK! ANY IDEAS, JIM?


LET'S JUST SKIP OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
....?!
LOOK, IF SHE THROWS OUT ALL OUR EQUIPMENT, IT'LL MAKE OUR RENT PROBLEM LOOK LIKE PEANUTS, RIGHT?!
I KNOW, JIM, I KNOW... BUT WHY DON'T YOU LOOK AROUND YOU AT ALL THIS STUFF BEFORE YOU START TALKING ABOUT "SLIPPING AWAY IN THE NIGHT"...!
DON'T WORRY... I'VE GOT A PLAN.

MYSTERIOUS
TELEPORTER
MY GOD!
AN INSTANTANEOUS MATTER TRANSMITTER?!
LET'S ACT ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE ARE IN FACT THE VICTIMS HERE.
RIGHT, CORRECT, ABSOLUTELY.
GIVE ME MONEY
NOW THAT WE'VE POURED ALL OUR MONEY INTO THE "FLOWER SHOP," WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE MAXIMIZE OUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT, RIGHT?
NOT THAT I'D EVER INTENDED TO USE IT THIS WAY...
RESTAURANT
CHINESE RESTAURANT
hahh...
CHOO!!

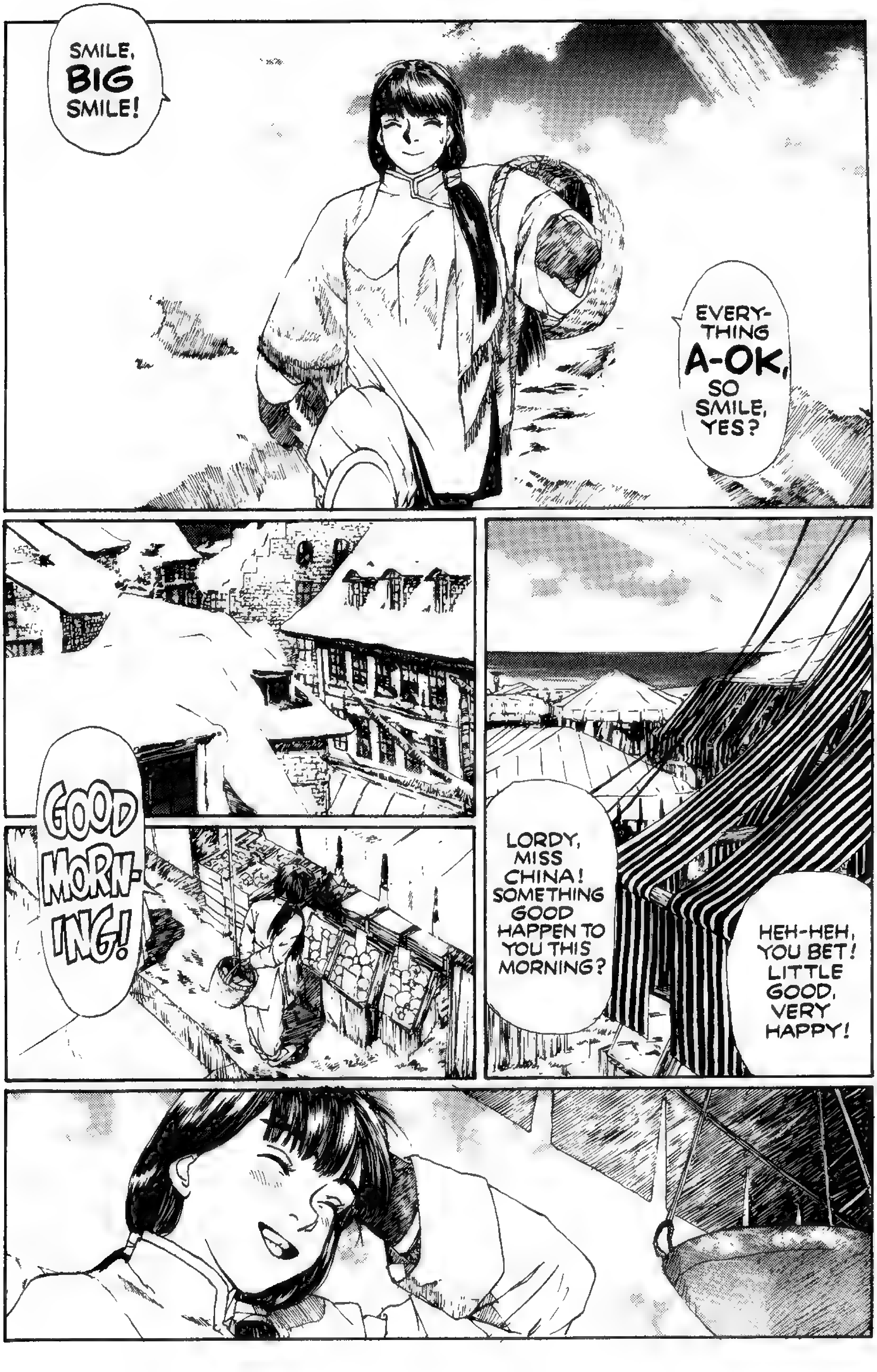
NOW SHE HAD NOT ONLY DRIVEN AWAY HER CUSTOMERS, SHE HAD EVEN LOST HER TENANTS...
FOR CHINA, IT WAS THE START OF A MORE MELANCHOLY TIME THAN EVER BEFORE IN HER LIFE.
CLOSED

WHDD
THUD
THMP
KRAK
AHH...
UMPH...
HNNMM...
MMMM!
HAH ?!
THWD
WHUD
WHMP
AIYAA !
THEY COMING BACK ?!
YOU THINK YOU COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASING?!
KYAH!
MISS CHINA ANGRY NOW, YOU BET! THIS TIME I REALLY THROW YOU OUT!

请你
elcome
OKAY, JIM!
I... AH... HMM?!
.....
.....
AH, SO... NO WAY HE COMING BACK.
EN RIDGE
BORATORY
CHINA, MAYBE YOU BE GOING FUNNY IN HEAD...

HAAAAAA
HYAAAA!
HYAAA!!!
AAAH!
THIS MORNING SO FINE FEELING!

OKEY-DOKE! NOW GET TO WORKING!
OH, NO, CHINA!
NO GOOD. NO NO GOOD. YOU HAVE TO BE FORGETTING HIM, OKAY?


SMILE, BIG SMILE!
EVERYTHING A-OK, SO SMILE, YES?
GOOD MORNING!
LORDY, MISS CHINA! SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TO YOU THIS MORNING?
HEH-HEH, YOU BET! LITTLE GOOD, VERY HAPPY!

£2/6
NOT MUCH IN STOCK, AND WHAT THERE IS...
WELL, I'M SORRY ABOUT ME PRICES, MISS CHINA.
THE COST O' STOCK IS ALWAYS UP IN WINTER, BUT THIS IS THE WORST I'VE SEEN IN MANY A YEAR.
TH... THAT...
THAT NO CAN BE HELPED, YES?
er... PLEASE WAITING ONE MINUTE...
.....
.....
AH!
WHUD
STOP, THIEF!
SOMEONE SEIZE THAT SCOUNDREL!

WHOK!
KYAH!
CHINA STOP YOU, YOU BET!
STEALING THINGS VERY BAD!
FWAK

KRAK
HYAAA!
WHUD
GOD PUNISH IF YOU NO WORK!!
THOK
STEALING, BAD! EAT AND NO PAY, BAD! NOT PAY RENT, VERY BAD!!
YOU LISTEN GOOD TO CHINA, YES?
YES?!
WHY YOU NO ANSWER?!

FWHMP
OKAY!
ONE "CHINA SPECIAL," ALL DONE!
....
....
....
....

天回
CHINESE RESTAURANT
CHINGG♪
HI, HI! YOU SIT DOWN ANY--
UM... HELLO, THERE...
...MISS CHINA.

HMPH! WHY YOU COME HERE...
...FLOWER SHOP LADY LILY?!
WELL, MISS CHINA?
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO A CUSTOMER?
STILL, I CAN UNDERSTAND IF YOU'RE GRUMPY, BUSINESS IS SO BAD. IT'S BAD FOR ME, TOO, TO TELL THE TRUTH.
OH, MY-- YOU OH SO KIND! HMPH!
SO-- YOU ORDER NOW?!
?!
中華菜館
Er... THIS IS THE MENU, RIGHT?
Uh... WHAT DOES IT SAY?
紅荳沙奶饍
上洋脆餅餅

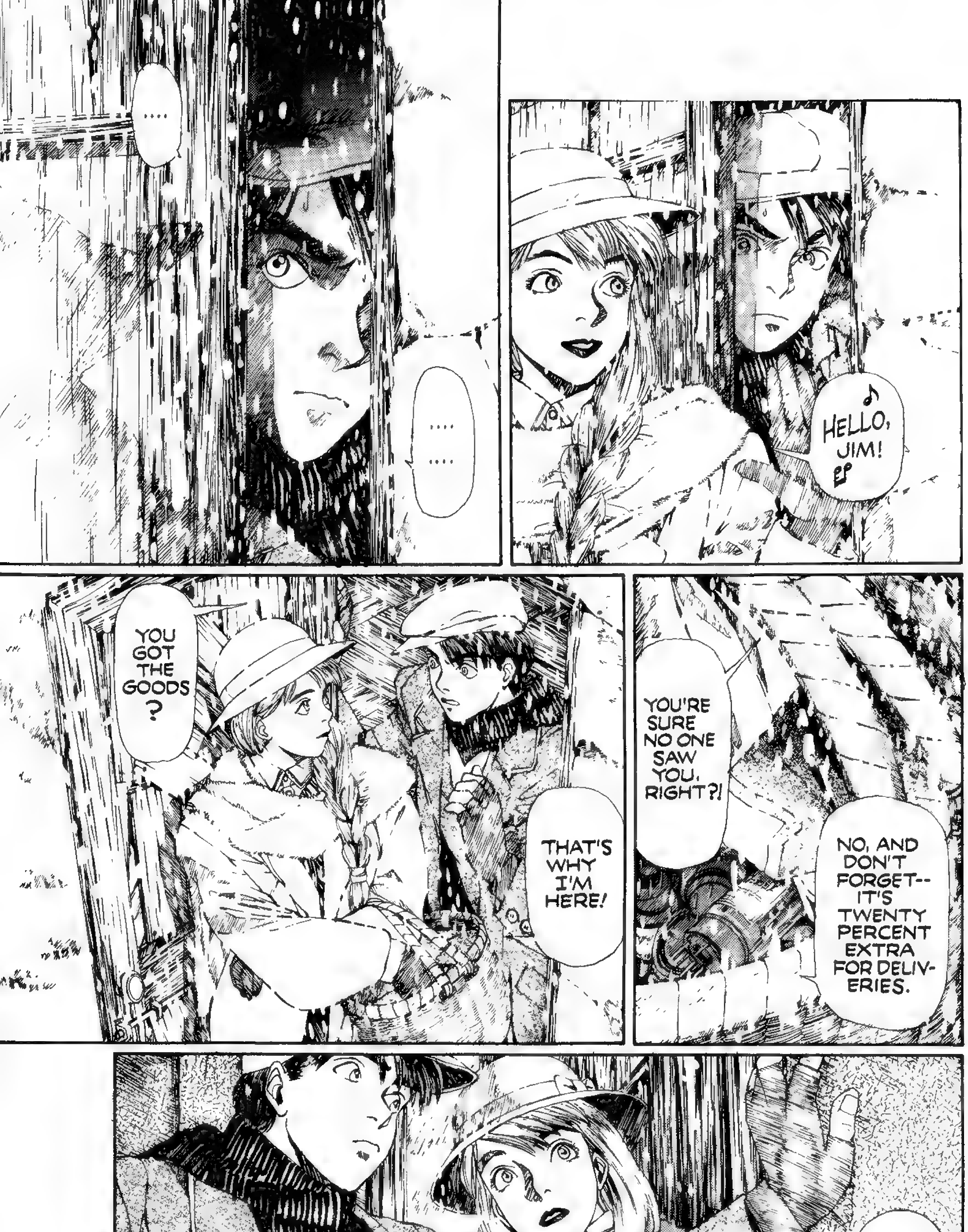
LATER...
WELL, ANYWAY...
...NOW THAT I'VE COME SO FAR OUT OF MY WAY...
...I GUESS I'LL JUST SAY "HI" TO JIM BEFORE I GO.
EH?!
NO! NO GOOD! YOU NOT SEE HIM!!
OW OW OWW!
EXCUSE ME, MISS CHINA...
...BUT IS THERE SOME LAW AGAINST ME SEEING HIM?
I...NO, BUT... IT, IT LIKE...
...JIM NOW SO BIG, BIG RESEARCH! NO GOOD BOTHER HIM NOW, IT TERRIBLE! BAD TERRIBLE, OKAY?
....
....
SO... ER... TODAY YUMMY FOOD ALL ON MY HOUSE, OKAY? OKAY, OKAY?

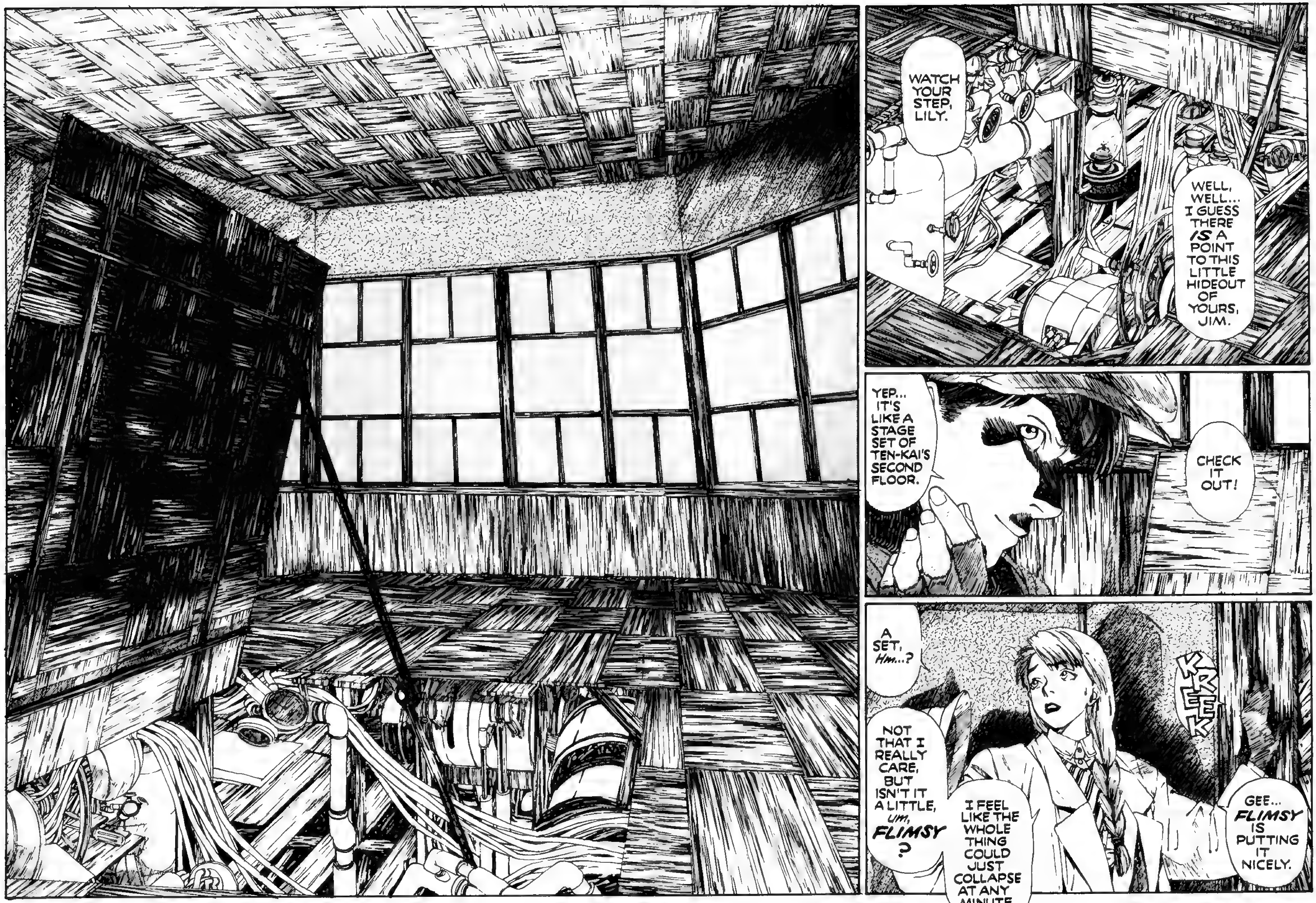
ANYWAY, THE REAL REASON I CAME BY WAS TO GIVE HIM THESE FLOWERS.
COULD YOU PASS THEM ALONG? IT'S ALMOST HIS BIRTHDAY, I BELIEVE.
Have a very happy birthday, Jim! I♥LOVE♥YOU! Lily
AIYAA...
WHAT IT BE SAYING HERE?
HEE, HEE...
"I... LOVE... YOU..."
OH, I NEARLY FORGOT-- THE FOOD WAS QUITE SUPERB, MISS CHINA.
I'LL BE SURE TO DROP BY AGAIN. THANK YOU FOR LUNCH.
Have a very happy birthday, Jim! I♥LOVE♥YOU! Lily
.....
.....
"I LOVE YOU..."
OH, MY...

cover art for
Spirit of Wonder #2

CHINA STRIKES BACK, Part 2

NOK NOK NOK
PSST! IT'S LILY!
I'M DELIVERING THOSE "FLOWERS" YOU ORDERED.


.....
....
....
♪ HELLO, JIM! ♪
YOU GOT THE GOODS?
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!
YOU'RE SURE NO ONE SAW YOU, RIGHT?!
NO, AND DON'T FORGET-- IT'S TWENTY PERCENT EXTRA FOR DELIVERIES.
GOOD HEAVENS!


WATCH YOUR STEP, LILY.
WELL, WELL... I GUESS THERE *IS* A POINT TO THIS LITTLE HIDEOUT OF YOURS, JIM.
YEP... IT'S LIKE A STAGE SET OF TEN-KAI'S SECOND FLOOR.
CHECK IT OUT!
A SET, *Hm...?*
NOT THAT I REALLY CARE, BUT ISN'T IT A LITTLE, *UM,* ***FLIMSY*** ?
I FEEL LIKE THE WHOLE THING COULD JUST COLLAPSE AT ANY MINUTE.
KREK
GEE... ***FLIMSY*** IS PUTTING IT NICELY.

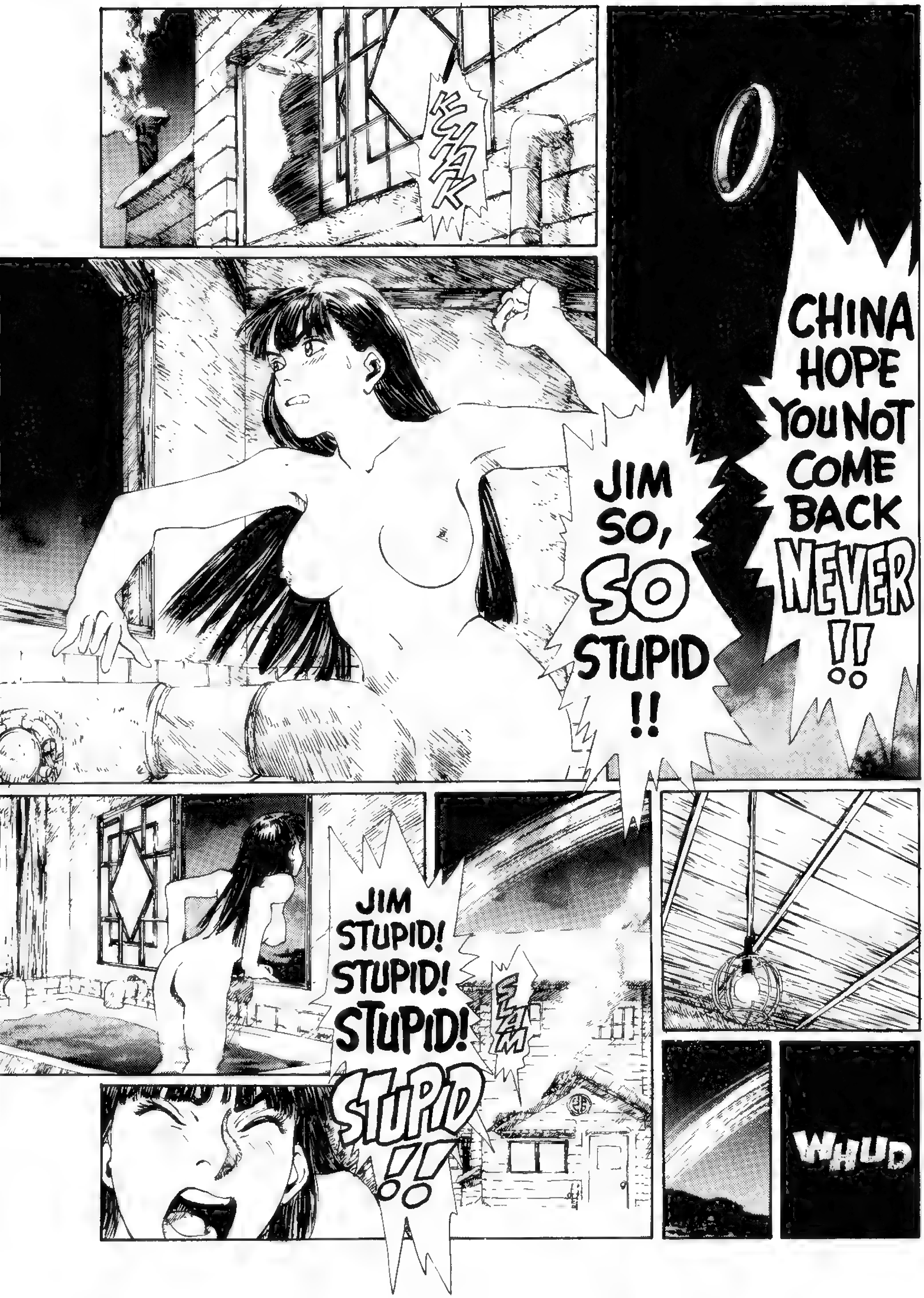
BRECKENRIDG
LABORATORY
GIVE ME MONEY
請你算吧
PAY UP NOW!
房费
WHAM
PAY UP NOW
房费
HMPH!
HERE! FROM FLOWER GIRL!
ZAM!

TELEPORTER
IN
CHINA TELEPORTS FROM TEN-KAI
CHINA ARRIVES ON SET (DOESN'T NOTICE)
OUT
YOU KNOW... I'M REALLY KIND OF IMPRESSED.
IT'S A TELEPORTER TRICK... AM I RIGHT, JIM?
GEE, THAT WASN'T VERY NICE!
HOW RUDE.
WINTER FLOWERS ARE EXPENSIVE!
OH, NO...! THEY'RE ALL BRUISED...!

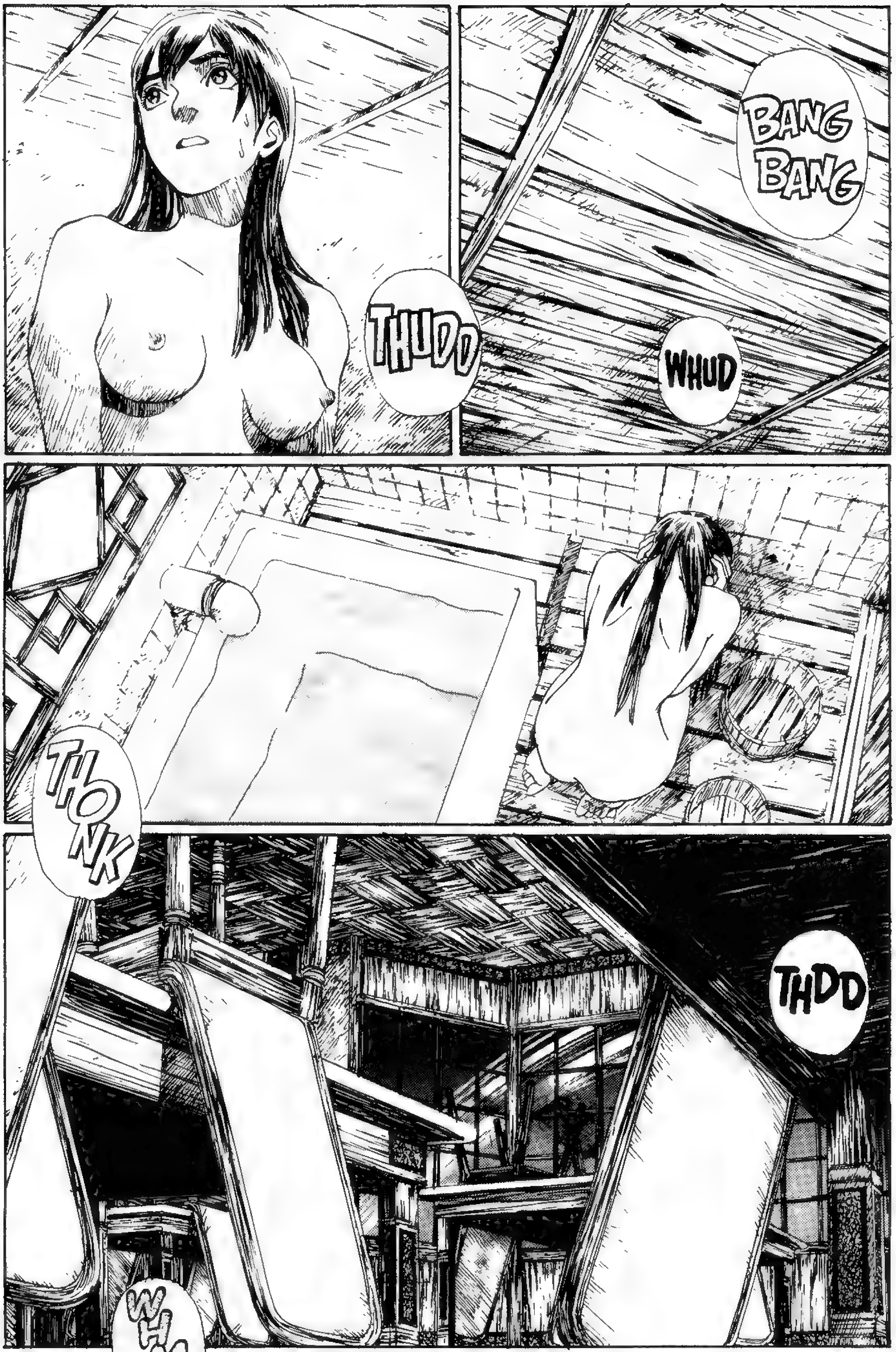
Breck ab.
YOU GOT IT. WE RIGGED UP MATTER TRANSMITTER TERMINALS IN THE DOOR AND THE WINDOW...
...BOTH OF THEM CONNECTING TO THIS LITTLE ROOM. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WERE ABLE TO SNEAK OUT OF TEN-KAI WITHOUT EVER LEAVING OUR ROOM.
C RANT
天回
EMPTY
Breckenridge Lab.
(Dummy)
FERBLES
TELEPOR
Mini Main Unit
THE MAIN UNIT'S UNDER HERE. IT'S A LITTLE RISKY, BUT...
...WELL, ANYWAY, LET'S JUST SAY THERE'S ROOM FOR SOME MINOR IMPROVEMENTS.
YOU REALLY DON'T BELIEVE IN PLAYING IT SAFE, DO YOU, JIM...?
"MINOR"...?
IT'S NOT EASY GETTING THIS STUFF!
OH, WELL. ANYWAY, HERE THEY ARE. PLEASE DON'T WASTE THEM ON ANYTHING SILLY.

BOO!!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT! NYA HA HA HA!
I SWEAR, SOMEDAY CHINA'S GOING TO KILL THE BOTH OF YOU.
AND YOU'LL DESERVE IT!
....
Have a very happy birthday, Jim! I ♥ LOVE ♥ YOU! Lily

CHINESE RESTAURANT


K'CHAK
CHINA HOPE YOU NOT COME BACK NEVER!!
JIM SO, SO STUPID!!
JIM STUPID! STUPID! STUPID! STUPID!!
SLAM
WHUD

WHUD
WHMP
THDD
OPEN
WHDD
THNK


BANG BANG
WHUD
THUDD
THONK
THDD
WHMP

......
....!
A-AIYAA... ....!
Welcome
PAY UP NOW
掅你算吧
DAY RENT
AAH ?!!
DOC--
DOCTOR BRECKENLIDGE!!

OOOH... MISSSS CHINA...
AH AH
YESSS...
I'M BAAACK... FOR YOUUU...
AIEEEE!
EEEEK!

YOU STAY AWAY ME!!
SKRASSH
WHAM
AIYAAAA!
KRASH
WHD
WHAM
KRAK
?!
EEEEK!
GET AWAY!!
A!!!
SKRAK
YAAAAA!

EEK...?
I L
I Love Yo

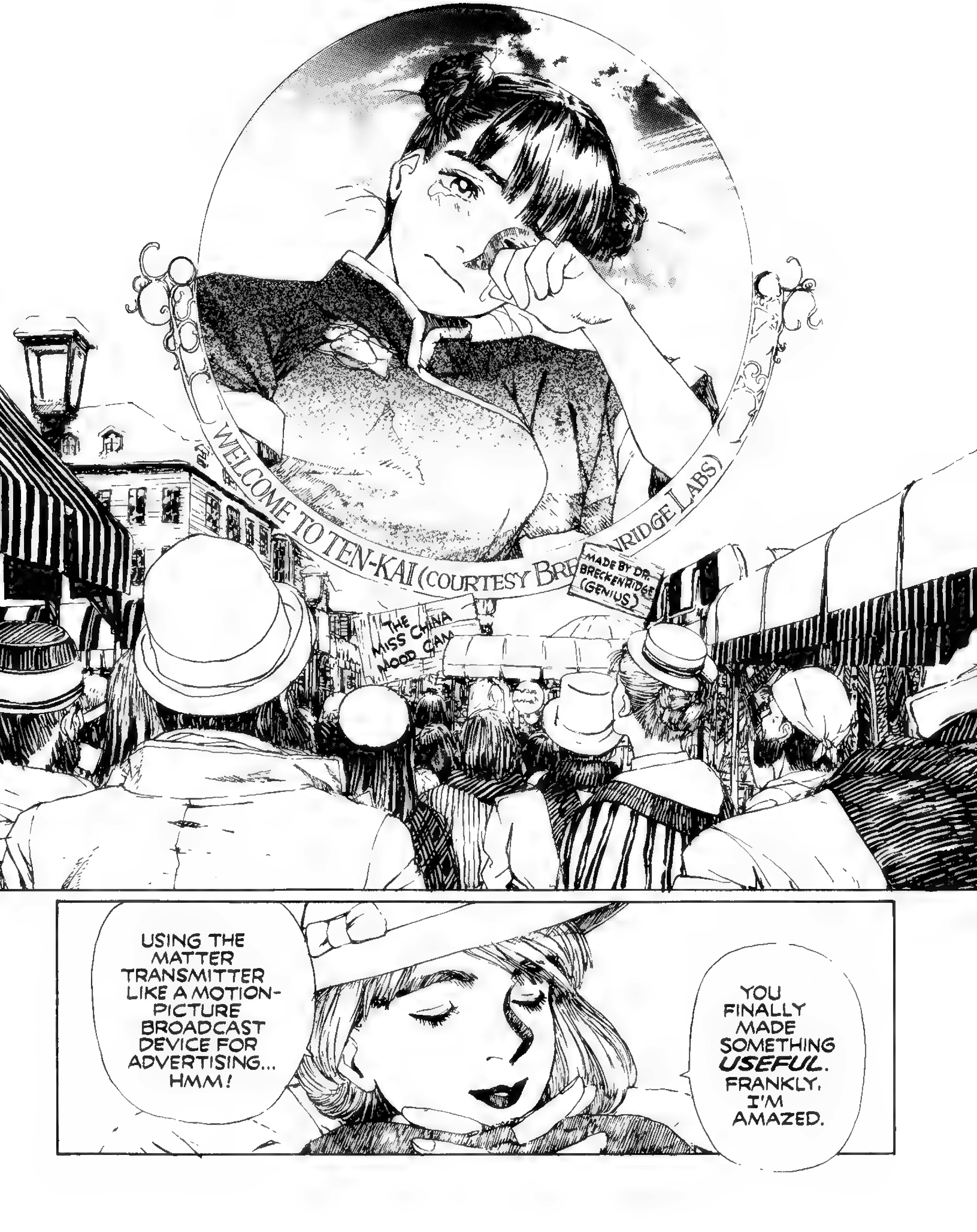
YEEEEK!
WHAK
EEEEEK!!
AIYAAAAAA!
FZZZAP
OH, NO! THE MATTER TRANSMITTER!!
SPZZZK
FZAP
ZAKK
SOME... SOME-THING TOUCH MY... MY...
WAAHH!
CHINA CAN TAKE NO MORE!

YAHHHH!!
HAIEEE
...ove You
ER... AH... H-HELLO THERE...
....?
EH?
SLAM
hahh
hahh
AIYAAA?!

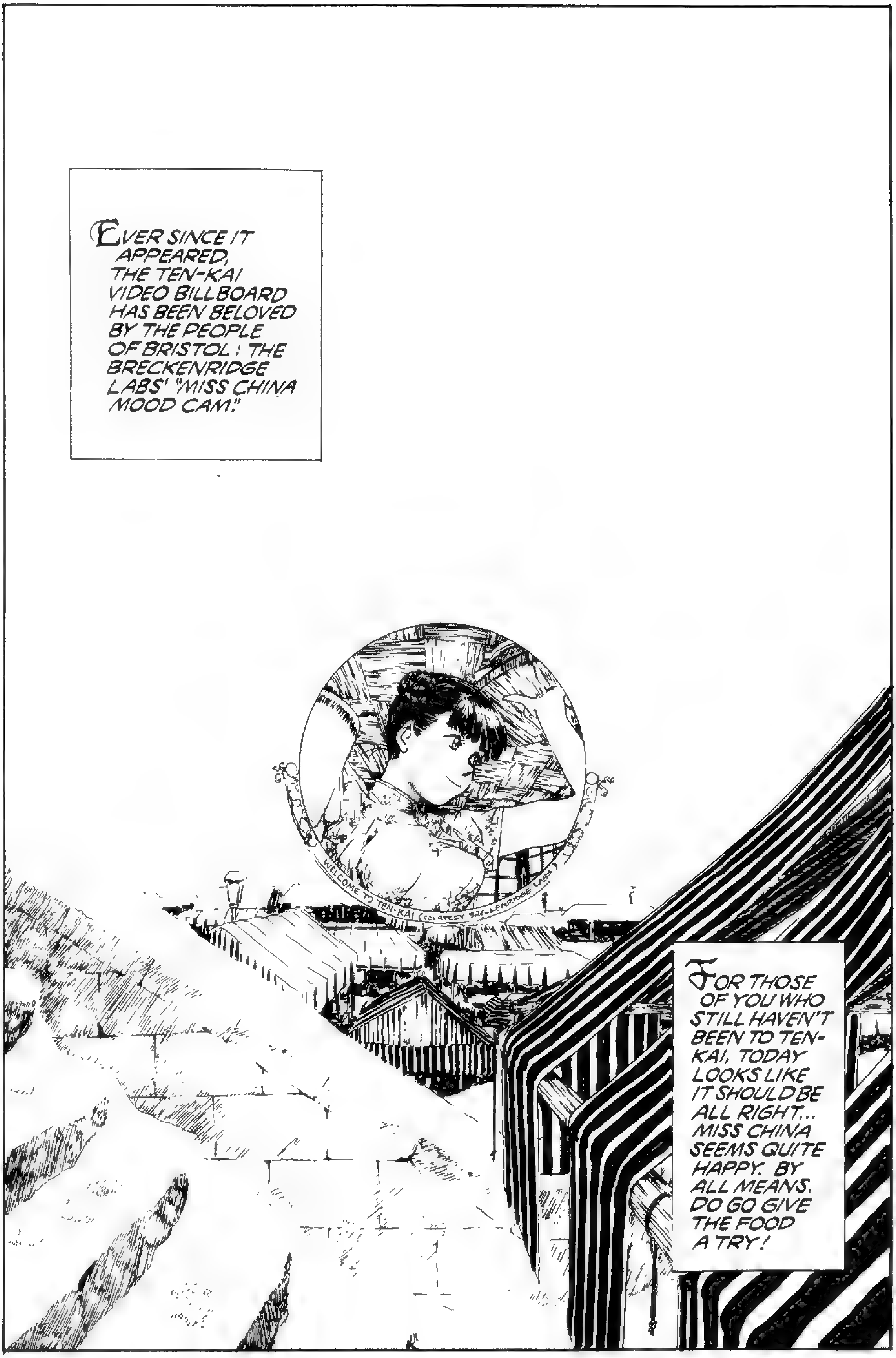
DOC-TOR BRECKENLIDGE!!
WHERE THAT DAMN JIM?!
YOU TELL ME NOW, I BET!!
I FIND YOU, JIM!
I Love You
JIMMMM!!
WHERE YOU HIDE, JIM?!

JIMMM!
WHERE YOU BE?!
JIMMM!
CHINA NOT BE ANGRY, I PROMISE! PLEASE YOU COME OUT NOW!
HEH, HEH...
EHN?

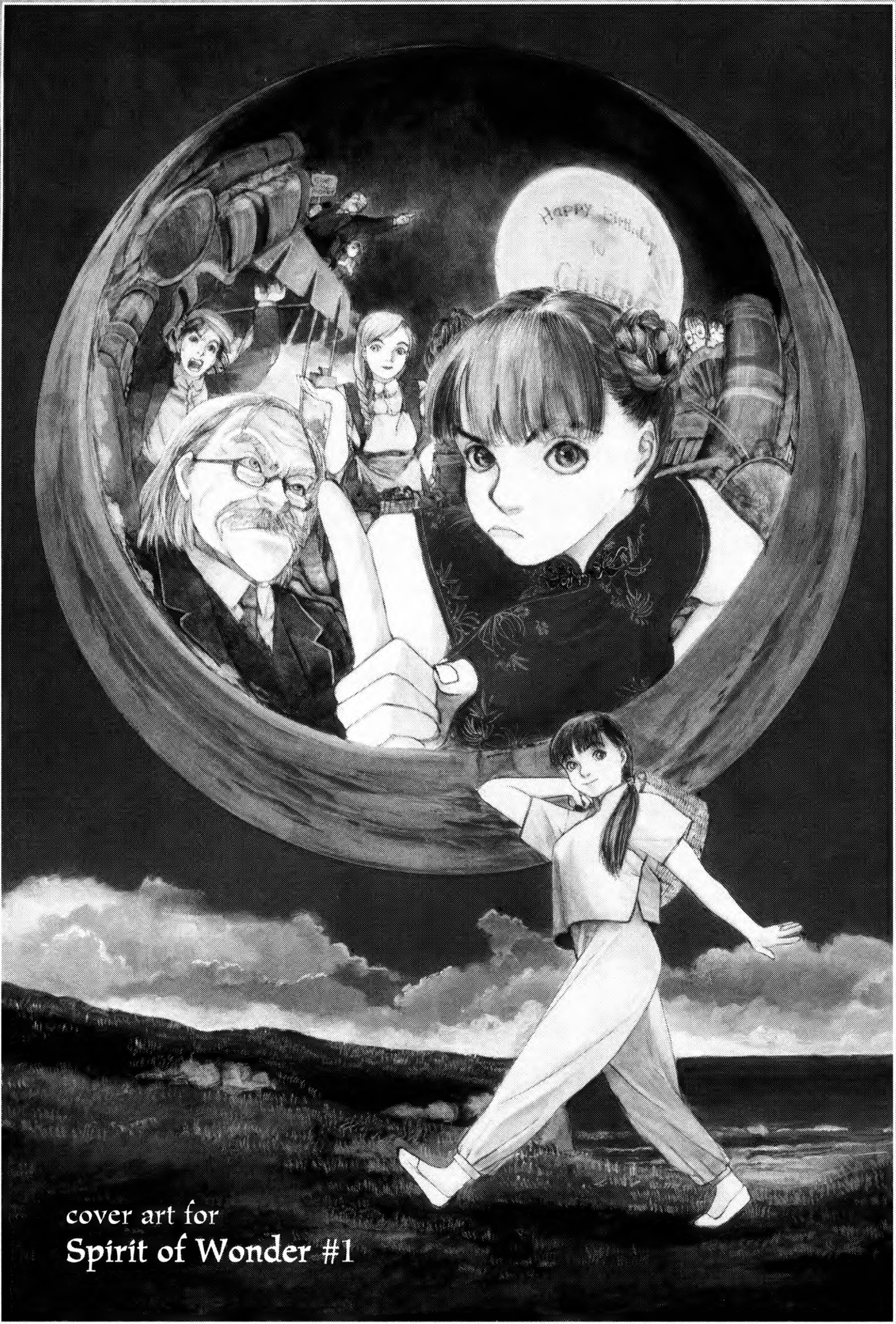
I LOVE YOU...?
....!
WHAT THIS ?
AIYAAA...
"I... LOVE... YOU"...?
I Love You


WELCOME TO TEN-KAI (COURTESY BRE
NRIDGE LABS)
MADE BY DR. BRECKENRIDGE (GENIUS)
THE MISS CHINA MOOD CAM
USING THE MATTER TRANSMITTER LIKE A MOTION-PICTURE BROADCAST DEVICE FOR ADVERTISING... HMM!
YOU FINALLY MADE SOMETHING ***USEFUL***. FRANKLY, I'M AMAZED.

C'MON-- DON'T WE DESERVE BONUS POINTS FOR ADDING A ZOOM AND TRACKING FUNCTION?
MAYBE I SHOULD ASK YOU TO MAKE ONE FOR MY FLOWER SHOP, TOO. BUSINESS IS SO BAD THESE DAYS...
LOWERS BY
OH, YES, BEFORE I FORGET... JIM, HAVE YOU FINALLY MADE UP WITH MISS CHINA?
OH, YEAH. ABOUT THAT...
WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS DO YOU THINK SHE'D LIKE...?
FORMANCE
AIYAA!
WHERE IT GO TO?
IT SO, SO STRANGE...


EVER SINCE IT APPEARED, THE TEN-KAI VIDEO BILLBOARD HAS BEEN BELOVED BY THE PEOPLE OF BRISTOL : THE BRECKENRIDGE LABS' "MISS CHINA MOOD CAM!"
WELCOME TO TEN-KAI (COURTESY BRECKENRIDGE LABS)
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO STILL HAVEN'T BEEN TO TEN-KAI, TODAY LOOKS LIKE IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT... MISS CHINA SEEMS QUITE HAPPY. BY ALL MEANS, DO GO GIVE THE FOOD A TRY!

THE END OF *Spirit Of Wonder*

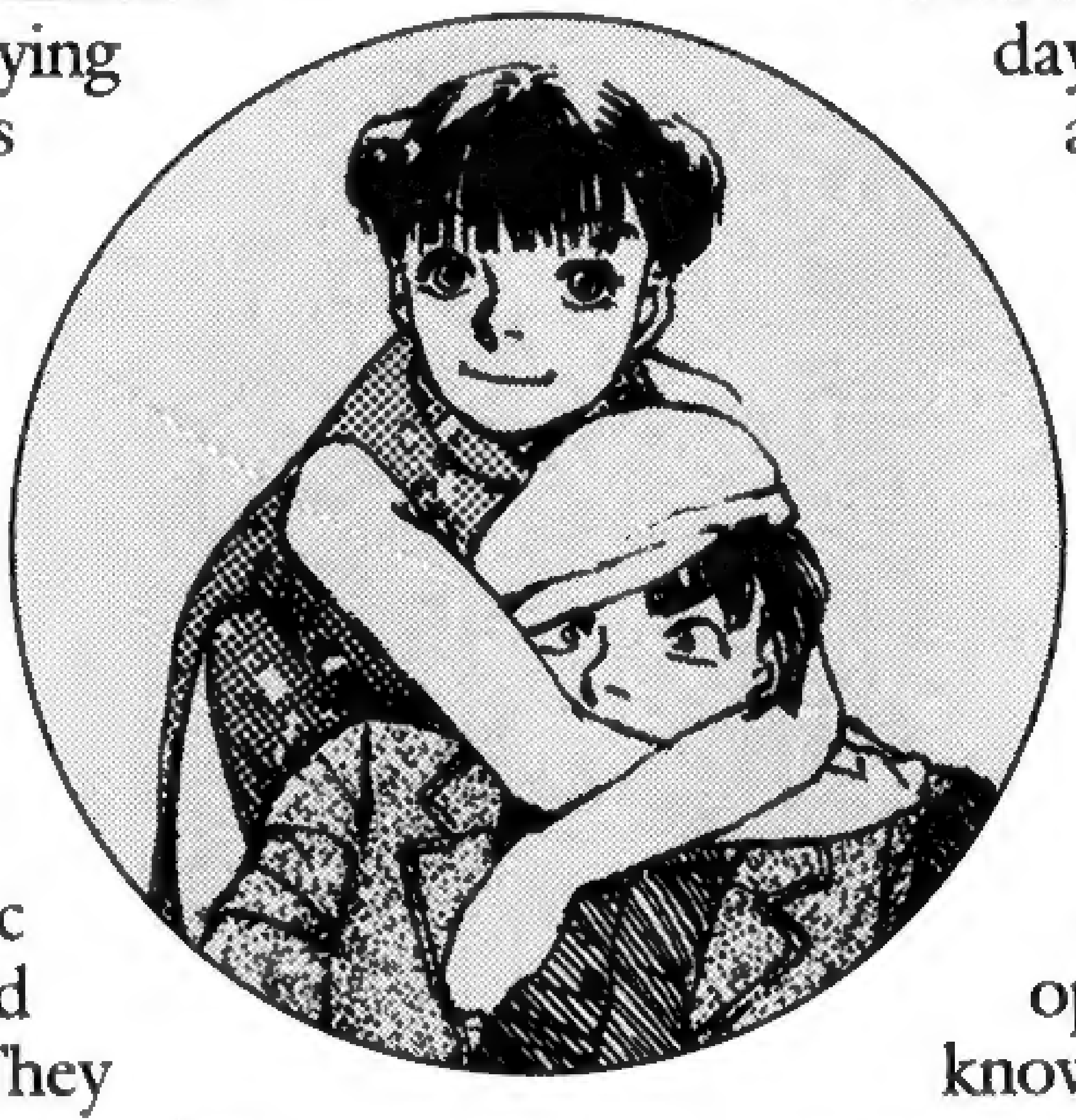

Happy Birthday
to
Chin

cover art for

Spirit of Wonder #1

Welcome to *Spirit of Wonder*! For those of you who are wondering what China wrote on the moon, wonder no more. China wrote, "You didn't forget my birthday. Thank you! You don't know how happy I am. I love you, Jim!"

For your further reading enjoyment, here's an interview Dana Lewis of Studio Proteus conducted with *Spirit of Wonder* creator Kenji Tsuruta:



Kenji Tsuruta isn't out for fame and fortune. If he was, he might be just a mite more productive. But what the creator of the warm and whimsical *Spirit of Wonder* likes doing best is trying to capture on paper a world that's unfolding quietly inside his own head, and if it takes him half a year or more to turn out a single story, that's fine by him. It's also fine by readers in Japan, who eagerly await the next, unpredictable appearance of his short-tempered, spunky heroine, Miss China, and her two irresponsible borders, the eccentric genius Professor Breckenridge and his long-suffering assistant Jim. They may not always pay their rent on time, but they'll do anything to try to please China, including carving a birthday greeting into the very surface of the moon.

Studio Proteus: At first glance, it's a classic cast of characters — the mad scientist, the handsome young swain, and the beautiful damsel. Except that the damsel is a Chinese martial-arts expert with an attitude.

Tsuruta: I've always had this longing for the world of 1950s American "sci-fi" really. It's sort of my own style of nostalgia. It's not as if I was always reading. I actually was the kind of kid who didn't read much at all. But I did like Heinlein, his early work. It was translated into Japanese when I was growing up in special, simplified texts for children, and that's what left a lasting impression on me.

Studio Proteus: The professor keeps coming up with these crazy machines, but they work.

Tsuruta: I've always been attracted to things that are totally off the wall. I guess you could say that, since I really don't know that much about science, I was able to make that kind of leap. Back before the big-bang theory or talk of black holes, people would have thought you were crazy to suggest there was a giant, black hole at the center of the galaxy eating stars. That's the sort of old "sci-fi" feel that I've tried to recreate.

Studio Proteus: How do you come up with a story?

Tsuruta: Well, at the first stage I spend a lot of time reading, a lot of time just wandering around, suddenly hopping on trains and taking trips. And while all that's going on, I'm working a bit on the manuscript, a little bit here and there. And then, all at once, I'll get a clear image in my mind, and I'm totally into the work. In the end, you have to lock yourself up and draw. But that gestation time can be very long, and it's important for me to like what I've done. I'm not much of a businessman! (laughs)

Studio Proteus: How did you arrive at your style?

Tsuruta: I'm not sure I really did. One day it was just sort of there. I have an image in my head that I want to draw. The image is very clear, and I try to do a life drawing of it. Except that it's not really there. I started drawing comics when I was twenty. For three years I did nothing but draw. And when I came out of it, the style was there. Originally, I'd wanted to be a photographer. In college, I chose an engineering track — optical science. I thought I should know how a camera worked if I was going to use one to take pictures. But in the end, I decided I didn't have a photographer's eye. And when I was searching for something else to do, I stumbled across a really fine manga, *Saber Cat* by Yukinobu Hoshino. And I thought, "I'd like to try this."

Studio Proteus: Hoshino writes really hard SF.

Tsuruta: Yes. Somehow, what I'd read when I was little and what I had drawn as a kid came together. After three years, I started publishing in fan magazines, and I went to work as an assistant for various cartoonists. Eventually, I did the short story that became my debut work. I took the train from Tokyo down to the ocean at Odawara. The line went through all these rice paddies, and I thought to myself, "Wouldn't it be interesting if there was a train track running through the ocean?" And that's how I came up with that story, which is all about a world where the land is sinking slowly into the sea. I wanted to write a story where I could use that image. So, I spin out my stories based on pictures that I still haven't drawn, and sometimes the story turns out not to have a place for the image that started it.

Studio Proteus: So what was the image for Miss China in *Spirit of Wonder*?

Tsuruta: The first idea was for a sort of scientific Sherlock Holmes, a private investigator who would use science to solve all the cases. He was going to have a secretary who always wore Chinese "cheongsam" dresses. The story was going to be set in England, and I'd heard there was a London Chinatown. But that's not how it turned out. At the time, I wasn't making any money, and I couldn't pay my rent. I gave my landlord a lot of trouble. And somehow the secretary character turned into a landlord character, who's always trying to get the Professor and Jim to pay their rent.

Studio Proteus: Tell me more about Miss China. Who is she?

Tsuruta: She's like a daughter. She's this daughter I can't control. When I first drew her, I never thought she'd act like this. You know, I'd heard people talk about how characters in their books and comics would take on a life of their own, but I frankly didn't believe it. I was sure I could control my characters. But China insists on having her own way, and I have to come up with stories that she can be comfortable in. The Professor is a little more manageable. He'll listen to me, and he helps me keep China under control. People say that I remind them of the Professor myself.

Studio Proteus: The *Spirit of Wonder: Miss China's Ring* video already has quite a few followers in the United States. Are you concerned that readers will already have an image of China based on the OVA?

Tsuruta: Actually, I'm not worried about that. When you work on a manga yourself, you get too close to your own characters. You can't see the forest for the trees. When I saw the video for the first time, I thought, yes, that's right. That's how they really would look from the outside. Now I sort of wished I could have directed it myself. It was almost too true to the original; I'd have liked a second chance to fix my mistakes!

Studio Proteus: A lot goes unsaid in *Spirit of Wonder.*

Tsuruta: I try not to let the words take charge. Japanese manga readers rely too much on the words; they just flip through, reading the balloons and following the plot. I want people to look at the art. I've tried to make a comic where you have to read the art in order to understand the story. The pictures are a code for deciphering the story. It's all there in my head, but I don't think it's necessary to put everything down on paper.

Studio Proteus: Who are your influences?

Tsuruta: I feel very influenced by Tetsuya Chiba. The style is different, of course, but I used to read and reread his work. I feel like it's part of me. When I go back and read old comics, I feel recharged. When I read contemporary comics, I feel competitive. Instead of enjoying them, I'm always thinking, "I would have done it this way," or, "I'd do this part differently." But with the older comics, the more they're something I used to love reading when I was little, the more positive my attitude. I think, "Yes, I want to create something like this myself."

Studio Proteus: In the China stories, the Professor's rooms are a total mess. Let me guess...

Tsuruta: They're like mine. My place is awful. When I moved, the movers said I had three times as much stuff as most people would have in the same space. Mostly, it's books.

Nonoguchi (Tsuruta's editor): Actually, you can't see the floor from the front door of his work room to his desk. There's a sort of path there. Like an animal trail in the woods.

Studio Proteus: How long do you spend on a story?

Tsuruta: Half a year? Maybe more. I draw and erase, draw and erase. When I'm drawing, my psychological state is like this spiral. I have the image in my mind that I want, and I circle around and around it, getting a little closer every time. I don't have any assistants. The ones I had all went on and became full-time cartoonists in their own right.

Studio Proteus: I heard you've made your own CD-ROM.

Tsuruta: Yes. It has all my cover art, book illustrations, and other non-manga work. There's also a 40-second clip from the *Spirit of Wonder* animation. I like to try my hand at lots of different things. Manga take a long time to write; you're locked up there with your work. Well, when I'm in there, locked into drawing a comic, I start wishing I could be doing something else. This was a good chance to try it. I produced it and directed it — just me and the programmer. It's totally different from making manga, as different as writing a novel and making a movie. In the future, I'd like to be able to do both.

Studio Proteus: What would you like to do next?

Tsuruta: Actually, I've always wanted to do a baseball comic. But there's a lot of *Spirit of Wonder* left in me yet.